Bamboo Comics

三国志

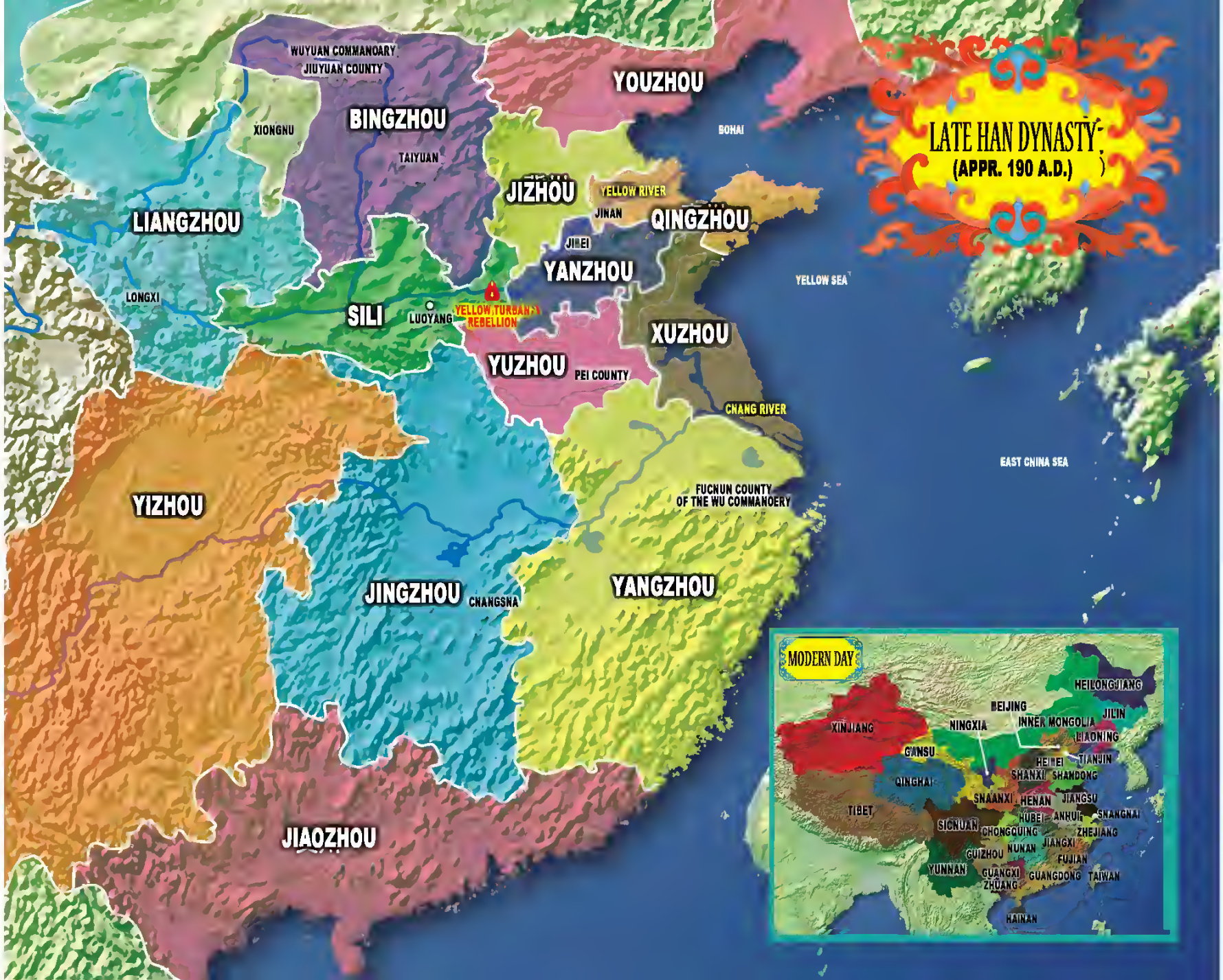
三

原作 北方謙三 Kitakata Kenzo

作画 河承男 Ha Seung Nam

呂布出現

竹書房


LATE HAN DYNASTY
(APPR. 190 A.D.)
WUYUAN COMMANOARY
JIUYUAN COUNTY
BINGZHOU
XIONGNU
TAIYUAN
YOUZHOU
BOHAI
JIZHOU
YELLOW RIVER
JINAN
QINGZHOU
LIANGZHOU
JIBEI
YANZHOU
YELLOW SEA
LONGXI
SILI
LUOYANG
YELLOW TURBAN'S REBELLION
XUZHOU
YUZHOU
PEI COUNTY
CHANG RIVER
EAST CHINA SEA
YIZHOU
FUCHUN COUNTY OF TNE WU COMMANOERY
JINGZHOU
CHANGSNA
YANGZHOU
JIAOZHOU
MODERN DAY
HEILONGJIANG
BEIJING
JILIN
XINJIANG
NINGXIA
INNER MONGOLIA
LIAONING
GANSU
HEBEI
TIANJIN
SHANXI
SHANDONG
QINGHAI
SNAANXI
HENAN
JIANGSU
TIBET
HUBEI
ANHUI
SHANGNAI
SICNUAN
CHONGQUING
ZHEJIANG
JIANGXI
GUIZHOU
NUNAN
FUJIAN
YUNNAN
GUANGXI ZHUANG
GUANGDONG
TAIWAN
HAINAN

RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS

3

Kitakata Kenzo
北方謙三
Ha Seung Nam
河承男

TAKESHOBO

LÜ BU

Style name: Fengxian. Date of birth unknown, died 198. Hails from Bingzhou. He first served under Ding Yuan, but joined Dong Zhuo in his plot to betray Ding Yuan. Soon after, he received his horse, Red Hare, from Dong Zhuo. Lü Bu's fighting spirit and capacity to do battle knew no match. The jet black cavalry unit he led distinguished itself on the battlefield above all the rest.

DONG ZHUO

Style name: Zhongying. Date of birth unknown, died in 192. Provincial governor of Western Liang. Taking advantage of the chaos following He Jin's execution, he kidnaps Emperor Han Shao, then dethrones him and controls Emperor Xian. In the Impenal Court, he drowns himself in pleasure-seeking and commits the most grim atrocities.

DING YUAN

Style name: Jianyang. Date of birth unknown, died in 189. Provincial governor of Bingzhou and Luoyang's mayor. He is also Lü Bu's adoptive father.

LI JUE

Style name: Zhiran. Date of birth unknown, died 197. The military commander under Dong Zhuo. After Dong Zhuo's assassination, he exercises control over Emperor Xian in Chang'an and gains true authority.

WANG YUN

Style name: Zishi. Born 137, died 192. Served as Minister over the Masses during the Late Han Dynasty. A sober, honest government official. He couldn't condone Dong Zhuo's tyranny and plotted his assassination.

GONGSUN ZAN

Style name: Bogui. Date of birth unknown, died in 199. General of Youzhou. Studied under Lu Zhi like Liu Bei. Known as the "General of Baima" for leading a cavalry of white horses called "baima" in Chinese.

LIU BEI

Style name: Xuande. Born 161, died 223. Hails from Liusang Village in Zhuo County, Zhuo Commandery, Youzhou. A descendant of Liu Sheng, Prince Jing of Zhongshan (son of the former Han emperor, Emperor Jing). He became a volunteer soldier to suppress the Yellow Turban Rebellion along with Guan Yu and Zhang Fei. His military successes get him appointed to Precinct chief of Anji County. But he punishes a corrupted official who comes on inspection and flees with Guan Yu and Zhang Fei to set out on an aimless journey.

CAO CAO

Style name: Mengde. Born 155, died 220. He rose to the position of Captain of the Cavalry in the suppression the Yellow Turban Rebellion. He's eventually appointed as Minister of Jinan. When the Impenal Court is overturned, he, along with Yuan Shao and Yuan Shu, attempts to bring the emperor under his control, but is upstaged by Dong Zhuo.

SUN JIAN

Style name: Wentai. Born 155, died 192. He made a name for himself as a pirate-eradicator in his teens and his military successes at quelling the Yellow Turban Rebellion quickly made him viceroy of Changsha and provincial governor of Yuzhou.

XIAHOU YUAN

Style name: Miaocai. Date of birth unknown, died in 219. Hails from Xiao County, Pei, Yuzhou. Xiahou Dun was his cousin. He served as an officer under Cao Cao from the time that he became Captain of the Cavalry.

GUAN YU

Style name: Yunchang. Date of birth unknown, died in 219. In the trio of brothers consisting of himself, Liu Bei and Zhang Fei, he acts as the second oldest brother. He is sturdily built and fights with the Green Dragon Crescent Blade. He's a heroic man said to be equal to 10,000 soldiers on his own.

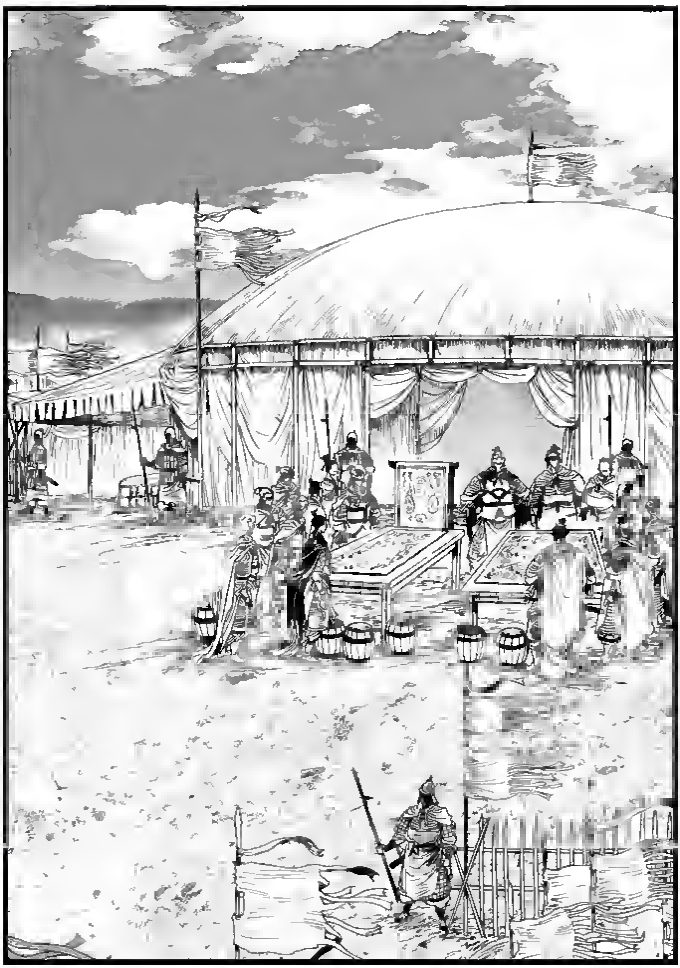
ZHANG FEI

Style name: Yide. Date of birth unknown, died in 221. In the trio of brothers consisting of himself, Liu Bei and Guan Yu, he acts as the littlest brother. Dauntless and daring, he swings his snake lance with valiance.

RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS

CAST OF CHARACTERS

3



RECORDS OF THE THREE KING-DOMS
3
ENTER LU BU
WRITTEN BY:
KENZO KITAKATA
ILLUSTRATED BY:
HA SEUNG NAM
TAKESHOBO

CAPITAL
CITY OF THE
HAN EMPIRE,
LUOYANG

HM?

WHAT IS IT, DEAR?

R...RUN!
DONG ZHUO'S SOLDIERS HAVE COME!

THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD

AAAAH!
THE DONG ZHUO ARMY HAS COME TO PLUNDER AGAIN!
HIDE YOUR CHILDREN AND LOCK YOUR DAUGHTERS AWAY!

THWACK
THWACK
THWACK
SLASH
CRACK

THE CORE OF DONG ZHUO'S ARMY WAS MADE UP OF MEN FROM QIANG, AN EQUESTRIAN PEOPLE TO THE NORTH. THEY WERE STRONG FIGHTERS, BUT KNEW CLOSE TO NOTHING OF CIVILIZED BEHAVIOR AS THEY OPENLY FLAUNTED THEIR SAVAGE WAYS WHILE THEY TRAMPLED THE CITY OF LUOYANG.

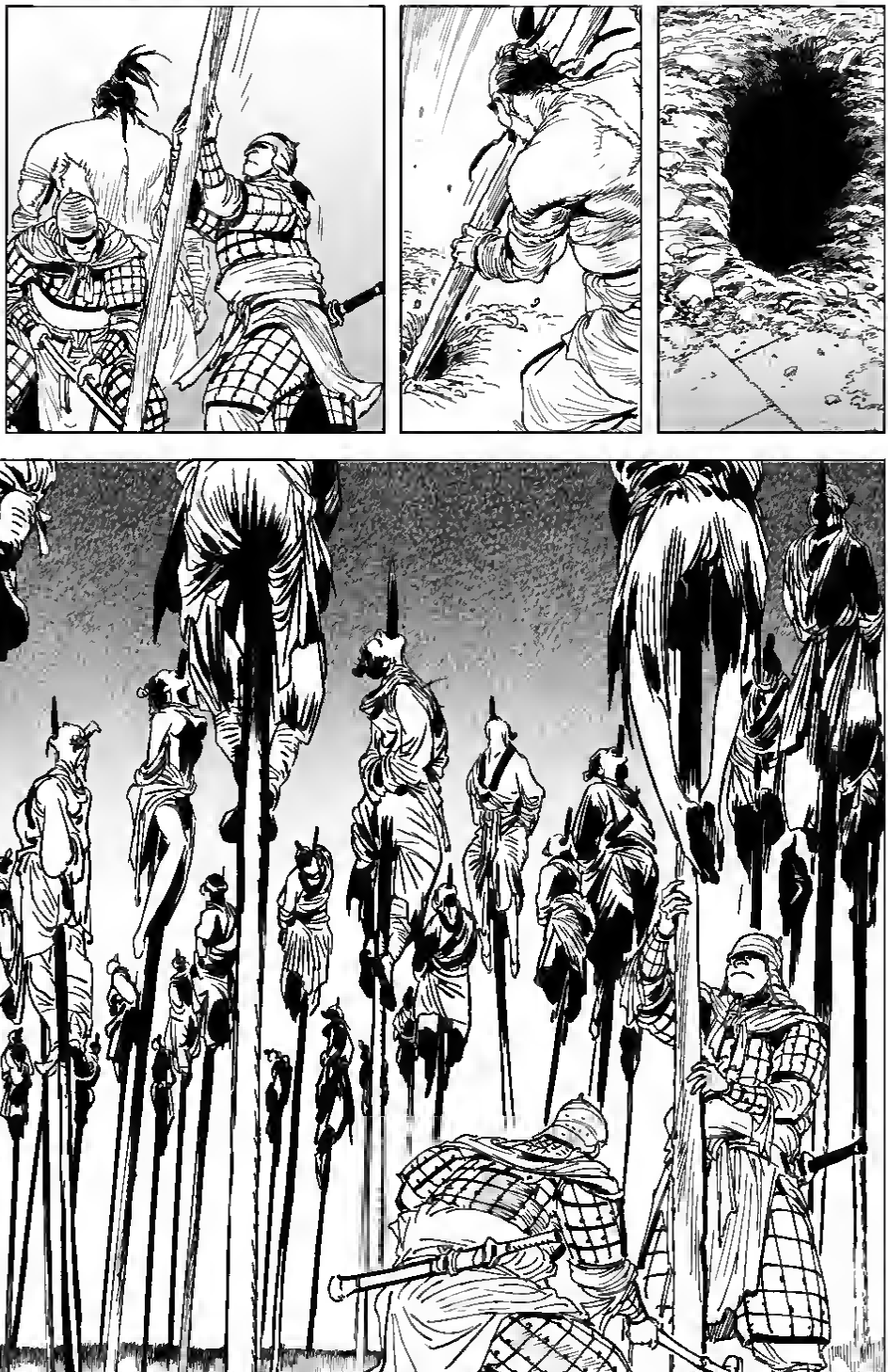
AFTER DONG ZHUO HAD THE TWO PRINCES BIAN AND XIE IN HIS GRASP, HE ENTHRONED BIAN AS THIRTEENTH EMPEROR HAN SHAO AND SUCCEEDED IN GAINING COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE IMPERIAL COURT BY INSTALLING HIMSELF AS HIS OFFICIAL GUARDIAN. HOWEVER, THE SOLDIERS DONG ZHUO BROUGHT WITH HIM FROM THE OUTER REGIONS RAN AMOK, COMMITTING EVIL AND WR EAKING HAVOC ON THE PEOPLE. JUST AS THE ARMY OF YOSHINAKA KISO THAT CONQUERED KYOTO IN JAPAN DURING THE GEMPEI PERIOD DID, THE PEOPLE WERE GRIPPED BY FEAR.

BUT WHEN ONE LOOKS AT THE ATROCITIES THAT THEIR LEADER, DONG ZHUO, COMMITTED, IT MAKES THEIR ACTIONS LOOK LIKE CHILDISH PRANKS.
FULLY IN CONTROL NOW, DONG ZHUO GREW SO FAT THAT IT WAS HARD TO IMAGINE HE HAD ACTUALLY SPENT TWENTY YEARS BATTLING THE HUNS AS A GENERAL OF UNMATCHED FEARLESS DETERMINATION. IN NO TIME AT ALL, HE HAD UNDERGONE A REMARKABLE TRANSFORMATION AND HAD DEVELOPED A BRUTAL CRUELTY TO MATCH IT.

FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE SOUP BROUGHT TO HIS TABLE WAS NOT HOT ENOUGH, HE WOULD HAVE THE COOKS BOILED ALIVE.

HE WOULD TAKE COURT LADIES INTO THE EMPEROR'S SLEEPING QUARTERS, WHERE NOBODY WAS ALLOWED, AND HAVE HIS WAY WITH THEM.
HIS CRUELTY BORDERED ON MADNESS, BUT THE STORY MOST PASSED DOWN IS OF HIS "HUMAN SHISH KEBAB PUNISHMENT".

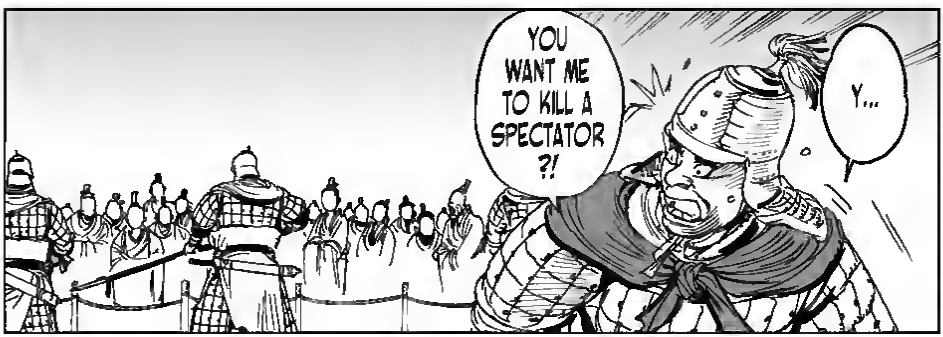
ギ
GYAAAAAH!



THERE'S A LITTLE GAP TO THE LEFT.
PLANT ONE DOWN OVER THERE.

WHAT?
WE'RE OUT OF CRIMINALS ?
I'M SORRY, GENERAL.
WE HAVE NO MORE PEOPLE TO EXECUTE.
OH, REALLY...
YES, THERE'S NOBODY LEFT.

THEN KILL ONE OF THOSE SPECTATORS AND FILL THAT GAP.


YOU WANT ME TO KILL A SPECTATOR ?!
Y...

N-NO, I DIDN'T MEAN THAT I CAN'T DO IT, BUT...

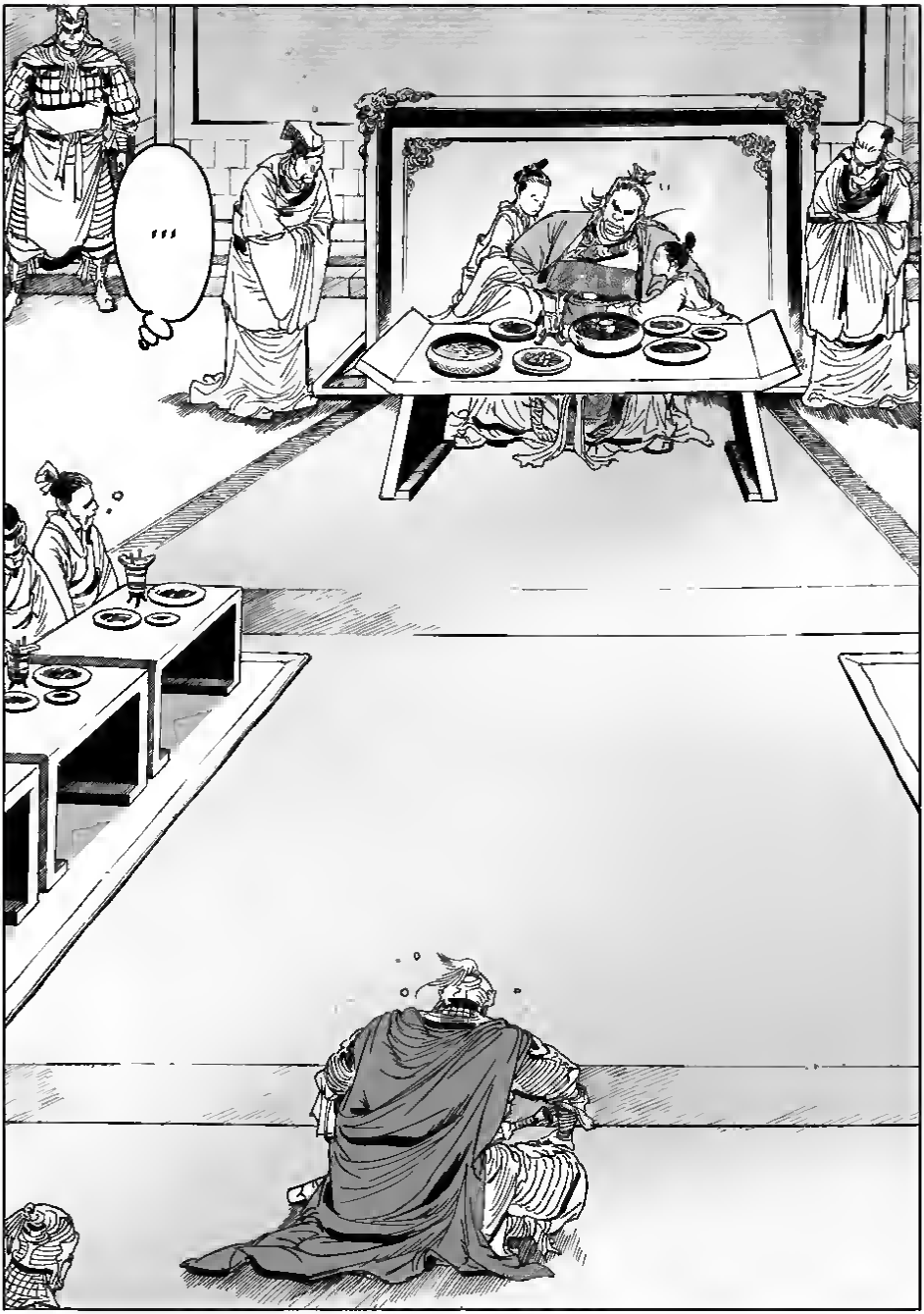
WHAT, YOU CAN'T DO IT?

I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT, GENERAL.

WELL, WELL...
WE CANNOT KILL THEM THE SAME WAY WE DO TRAITORS AND POLITICAL OFFENDERS WHO DISOBEY THE WILL OF THE PALACE!
THOSE PEOPLE ARE CITIZENS OF LUOYANG BROUGHT HERE TO WITNESS THE EXECUTION OF CRIMINALS IN THE HOPES OF DISCOURAGING FUTURE CRIME.

I APOLOGIZE, BUT I MUST SPEAK UP.
LI JUE.
YOU DARE GIVE ME YOUR OPINION?
GENERAL, YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO RULE AN EMPIRE.
WHAT MAKES AN EMPIRE AN EMPIRE IS ITS PEOPLE. YOU WORKED SO HARD TO COME TO THE CAPITAL. IF YOU BETRAY THE TRUST OF YOUR PEOPLE, THEN YOU WILL GO RIGHT BACK TO THAT REMOTE REGION* YOU CAME FROM!

*Dong Zhuo comes from Longxi Commandery where there are only dead trees and desert.



YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND, LI JUE.

WE MAY HAVE EMPEROR HAN SHAO IN OUR CONTROL AND RULE THE IMPERIAL COURT, BUT...
LISTEN AND LISTEN WELL.

...THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT EVERY-ONE OBEYS US, BE THEY INSIDE OR OUTSIDE.
ALL IT MEANS IS THAT WE'RE THE ONLY ONES IN THE CAPITAL WITH AN ARMY AT THE MOMENT.
FEIGNED ALLEGIANCE. THAT IS WHAT SURROUNDS US RIGHT NOW.
AND...

AT THE SAME TIME, SINCE WE ARE NOT OF THE HAN LINEAGE, THEY HARBOR SCORN FOR US DEEP DOWN INSIDE -- WITH ME, THE SENIOR STATESMAN, AT THE HEAD OF THE LIST.
I KNOW THAT BETTER THAN ANYBODY AND THAT'S WHY I'M BUILDING THIS GOVERNMENT BASED ON FEAR.
DEFY ME AND YOU MEET YOUR END!

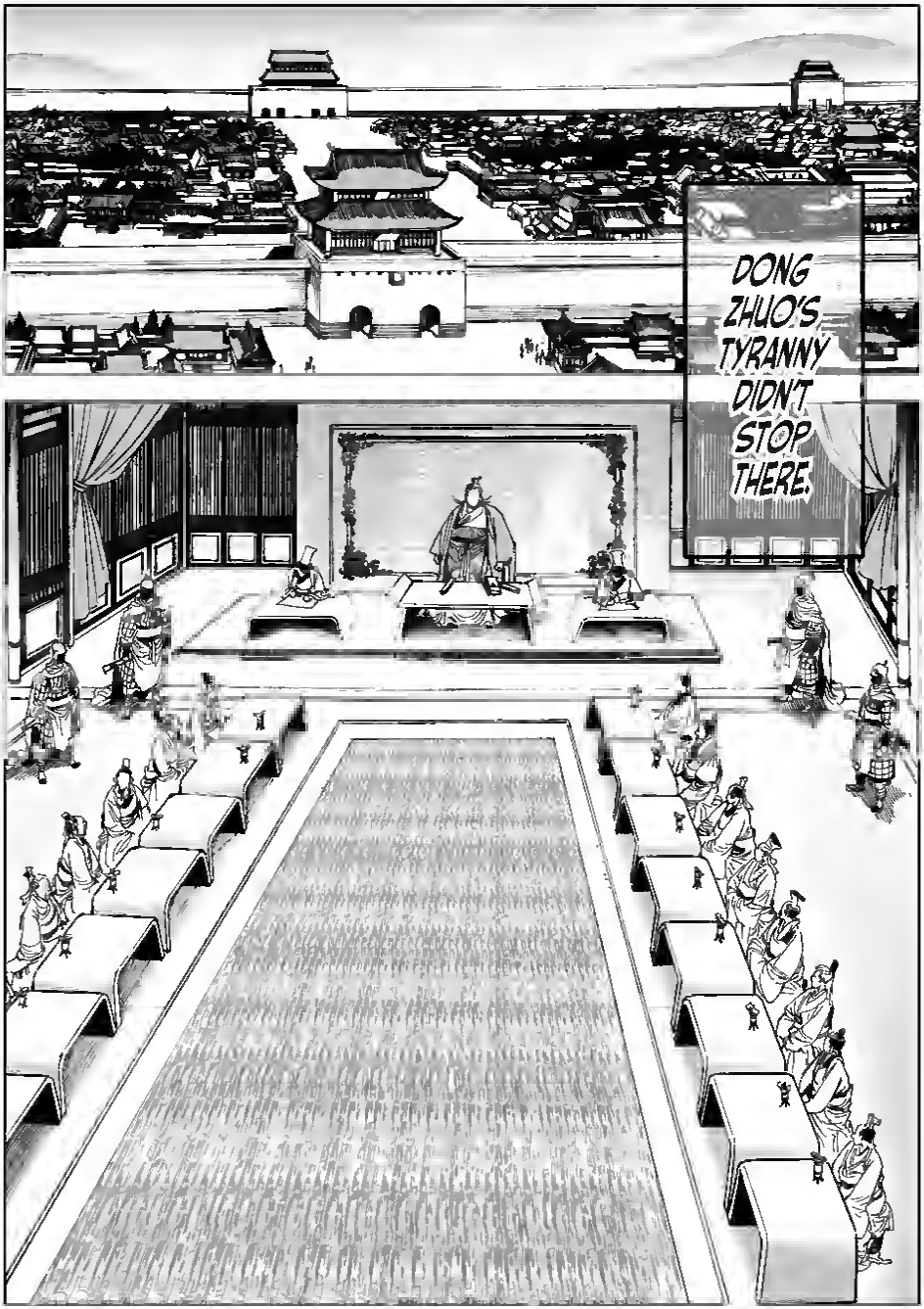
THAT'S THE BEST METHOD OF RULING I CAN USE RIGHT NOW!

ARE YOU SAYING THAT ALL THIS INHUMAN AND MERCILESS TREATMENT IS JUST FOR SHOW, GENERAL?
TH-THEN...

THAT'S RIGHT.
ALL PEOPLE BOW TO BENEFITS AND POWER.
AND THE EASIEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO ENCOURAGE THAT IS BRUTE FORCE.

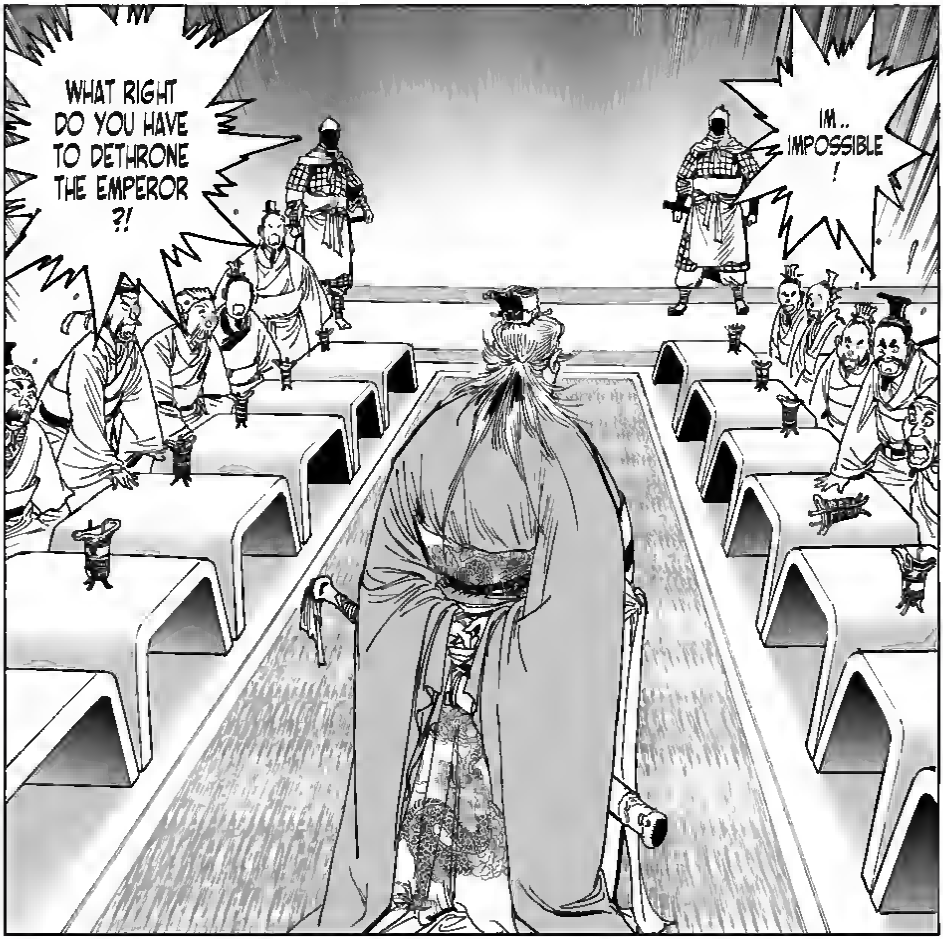
*Civil servants of the jail

KWAAAAH
GYAAAAH!


DONG ZHUO'S TYRANNY DIDN'T STOP THERE.

DONG ZHUO GATHERED HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE IMPERIAL COURT, AND PROPOSED DETHRONING EMPEROR HAN SHAO AND INSTALLING HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, XIE, AS FOURTEENTH EMPEROR.
EMPEROR HAN SHAO IS A FOOL.

IN THE CURRENT CLIMATE, LOCAL WARLORDS ARE STRUGGLING WITH ONE ANOTHER. THE EMPIRE WILL NEVER SETTLE DOWN UNDER AN IDIOT EMPEROR.
THAT IS WHY I THINK WE SHOULD INSTALL XIE AS THE FOURTEENTH EMPEROR, EMPEROR XIAN, TO WEATHER OUT THIS CRISIS.


WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE TO DETHRONE THE EMPEROR ?!
IM.. IMPOSSIBLE !

IN ALL 400 YEARS OF THE HAN DYNASTY'S HISTORY, A LIVING EMPEROR HAS NEVER BEEN SWITCHED OUT!
INDEED! THE THRONE CAN ONLY CHANGE HANDS UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH.

WE WILL NOT!
THEN YOU WILL NOT LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY, OH LORDS?
I AGREE! EMPEROR HAN SHAO HAS DONE NOTHING WRONG!
BUT WE SIMPLY CANNOT LISTEN TO YOUR PROPOSAL!
WE'VE TURNED A BLIND EYE TO YOUR ATROCITIES SO FAR, GENERAL.

IS THAT SO...
THEN HOW ABOUT THIS?!

SLASH!

I TAKE IT THERE ARE NO MORE CHALLENGERS ...
NOW THEN.

I DISAGREE!
THEN THE YOUNG EMPEROR WILL BE DETHRONED!
WHAT ?!

THE HAN DYNASTY HAS SPENT MORE THAN 430 YEARS SINCE ITS OLDEST ANCESTOR LORD LIU BANG DOING JUST THAT.
THE WORTH OF THE ROYAL FAMILY HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE ACCUMULATED RESULTS OF ALL THE GOOD AND BAD DEEDS DONE OVER THE COURSE OF EACH EMPEROR'S LIFE.
THEY CALL THAT IMPERIAL VIRTUE. AND TO DISRUPT SUCH A TRADITION WOULD BE TO DENY THE VERY HEART OF THE HAN DYNASTY. YOU SAY YOU WOULD DARE COMMIT SOMETHING TO EGREGIOUS*?

*Divergent from the humane way

YOU THERE.
YOU'RE WANG YUN, AREN'T YOU.
YOU DON'T APPEAR TO VALUE YOUR LIFE EITHER!
IF YOU WISH TO STRIKE ME, GO AHEAD!
BUT IF YOU DO, THE ENTIRE HAN ROYAL FAMILY WILL PIT ITSELF AS YOUR ENEMY!

ZSH
ZSH
ZSH

B-BUT, GENERAL ...

STOP, LI JUE!
DON'T TOUCH HIM!

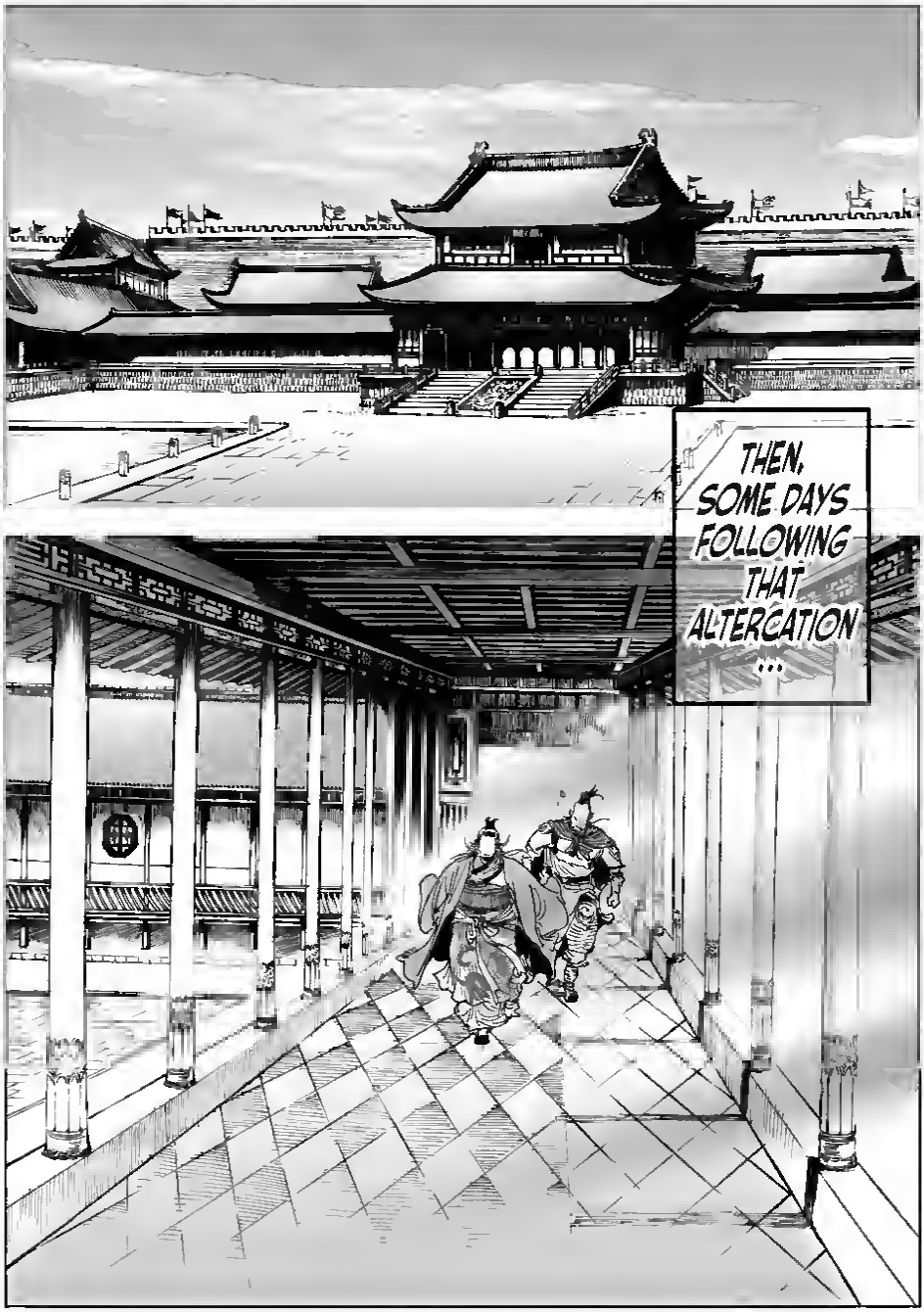
I KNOW.
BUT DON'T SAY ANYTHING!
WANG YUN.
...

I RESPECT YOUR OPPOSITION THAT YOU WOULD RISK YOUR LIFE OVER, SO I WILL PUT AWAY MY SPEARS FOR TODAY.
I AM ALSO A SOLDIER.
THIS DOESN'T MEAN THIS CONVERSATION'S OVER!
HOW-EVER...

...
G... GENERAL! PLEASE WAIT!

SIR WANG YUN.
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO NOW? DONG ZHUO WILL SURELY HAVE HIS REVENGE ON YOU.
...
I SUPPOSE MY ONLY CHOICE IS TO KILL HIM.
WH... WHAT?!
SAY THAT AGAIN, SIR WANG YUN!

WANG YUN ZISHI HAILED FROM QI XIAN, TAIYUAN. HIS DISTINGUISHED FAMILY WON HIM THE POSITION OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR OF YUZHOU WHERE HE SUCCEEDED IN QUELLING THE CHAOS FROM THE YELLOW TURBANS DURING EMPEROR LING'S RULE. HE WAS INVITED TO THE PALACE AND APPOINTED THE POSITION OF MINISTER OVER THE MASSES, ONE OF THE THREE DUCAL MINISTRIES. ALL HIS LIFE, HE WAS A MAN OF SPOTLESS INTEGRITY AND IN THE CHAOTIC IMPERIAL COURT HE MAINTAINED A POSITION OF OPPOSITION AGAINST DONG ZHUO'S TYRANNY.

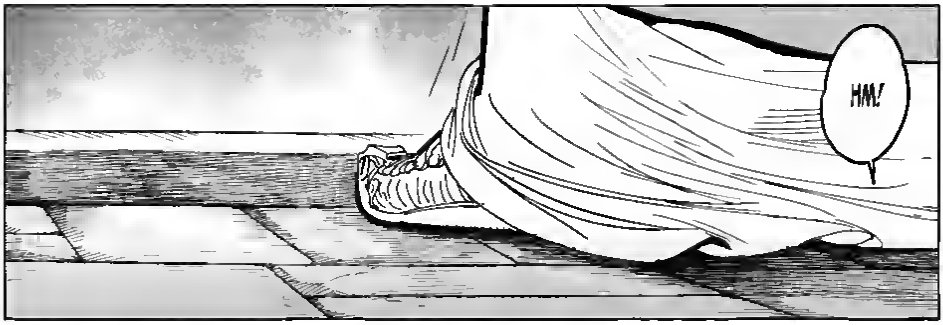

THEN, SOME DAYS FOLLOWING THAT ALTERCATION ...

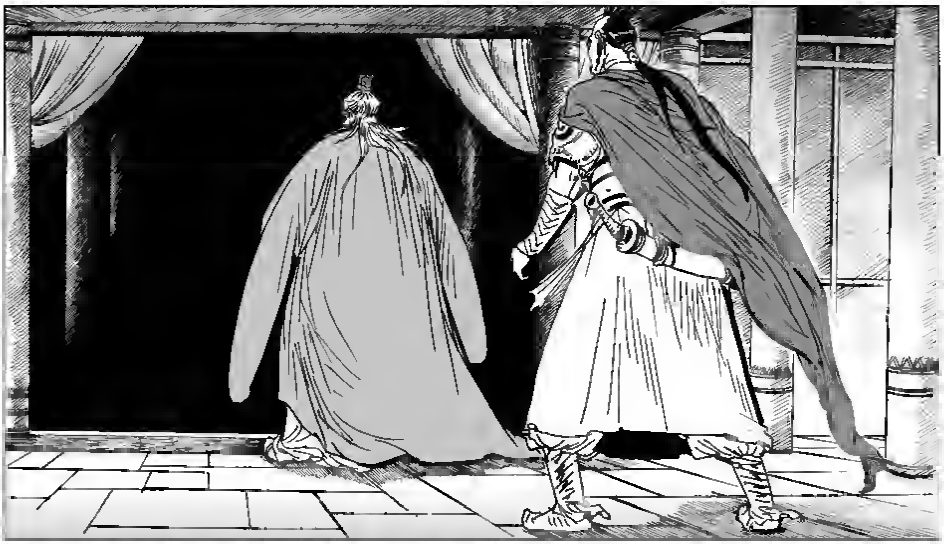
I HEARD WHAT HAPPENED FROM LI JUE.
GENERAL, WHY DIDN'T YOU KILL WANG YUN ON THE SPOT?!
IF YOU LEAVE HIM TO RUN WILD, HE'LL CAUSE TROUBLE LATER DOWN THE ROAD, MARK MY WORDS!

IT WOULD BE EASY TO KILL HIM.

YOU MEAN YOU'RE LETTING THEM LIVE JUST TO BE BUREAUCRATS ?!
NEITHER LI JUE NOR YOU COULD WORK AN ABACUS TO SAVE YOUR LIVES.
BUT IF I KILL WANG YUN AND HIS FOLLOWERS, WHO WILL ATTEND TO THE AFFAIRS OF THE STATE?
AND RIGHT NOW...
TO RULE AN EMPIRE, YOU NEED CIVIL SERVANTS.
THAT'S RIGHT.

IF THEY WERE TO INSTIGATE A REVOLT AGAINST ME, I'D BE THE ONE IN A DANGEROUS SITUATION.
MY ARMY IS KNOWN FAR AND WIDE AS BEING MADE UP OF 30,000 OF CHINA'S BEST, BUT AS YOU WELL KNOW, IT'S REALLY ONLY 3,000. IF I HAD TO QUELL A REBELLION WITH THAT NUMBER, I'D NEED CONSIDERABLE PREPARATION.


HM!

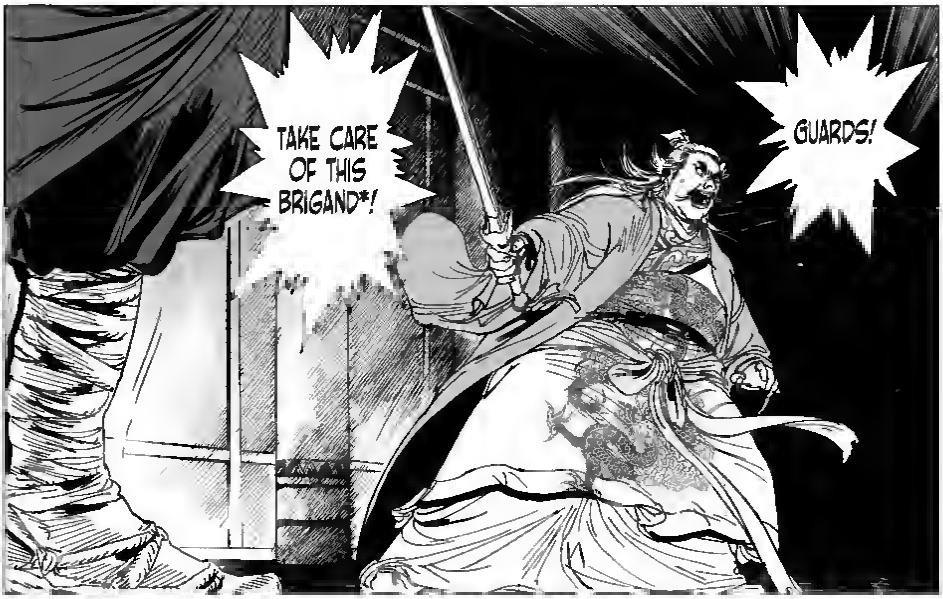


WHAT IS IT, GENERAL?

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YOU'RE RIGHT.
WHERE ARE THE GUARDS?
I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYONE FOR A WHILE.
IS ANYBODY THERE?!
IF YOU'RE SLEEPING ON THE JOB, YOU'RE IN BIG TROUBLE!

GYAAAH!
ズギ
SLICE

W-WHO ARE YOU?!
DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?! I'M DONG ZHUO ZHONGYING, YOU RUFFIAN!
WHAT?!
THEN YOU'RE AN ASSASSIN COME HERE TO KILL ME?!
I'M NO FOOL. I WOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE IF I DIDN'T.



*A suspicious person like a thief

...
YOU HAVE COMMITTED TOO MANY UNWARRANTED MURDERS.
GENERAL.

YOU THINK A LOWLIFE LIKE YOU CAN KILL ME WITH A SWORD?!
SHUT UP!
SWISH
THAT MAY BE TOLERATED ON THE BATTLEFIELD, BUT NOT IN THE IMPERIAL COURT.
YANK

ズバッ
SLASH
ズガガ
SWISH

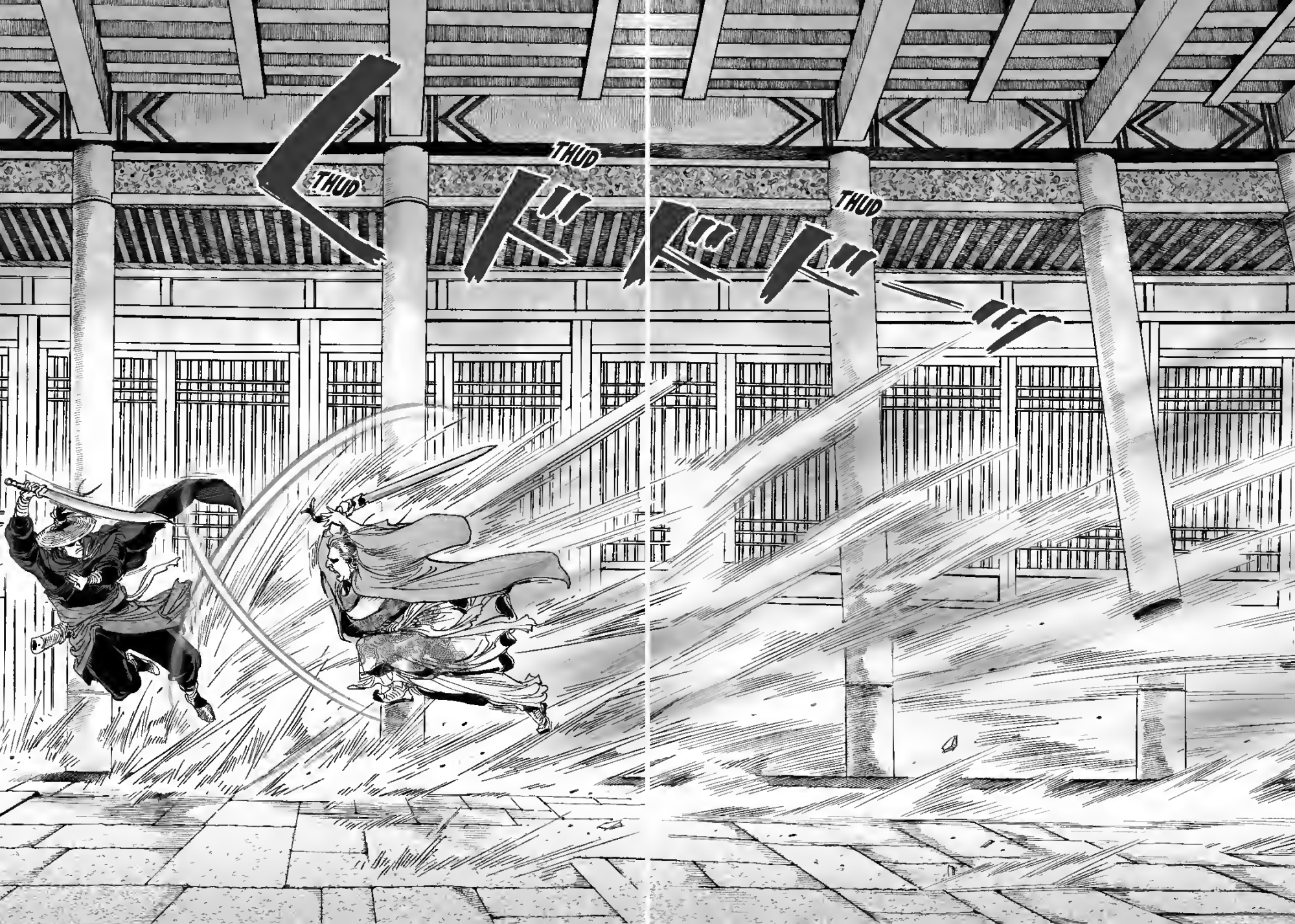
ZIP
SHWOOSH

AAARGH!!
SLASH

YOU'RE OUT OF BREATH.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, GENERAL?

SHUT YOUR MOUTH!
ZANG
ZANG
ZANG
ZANG
ZANG

TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

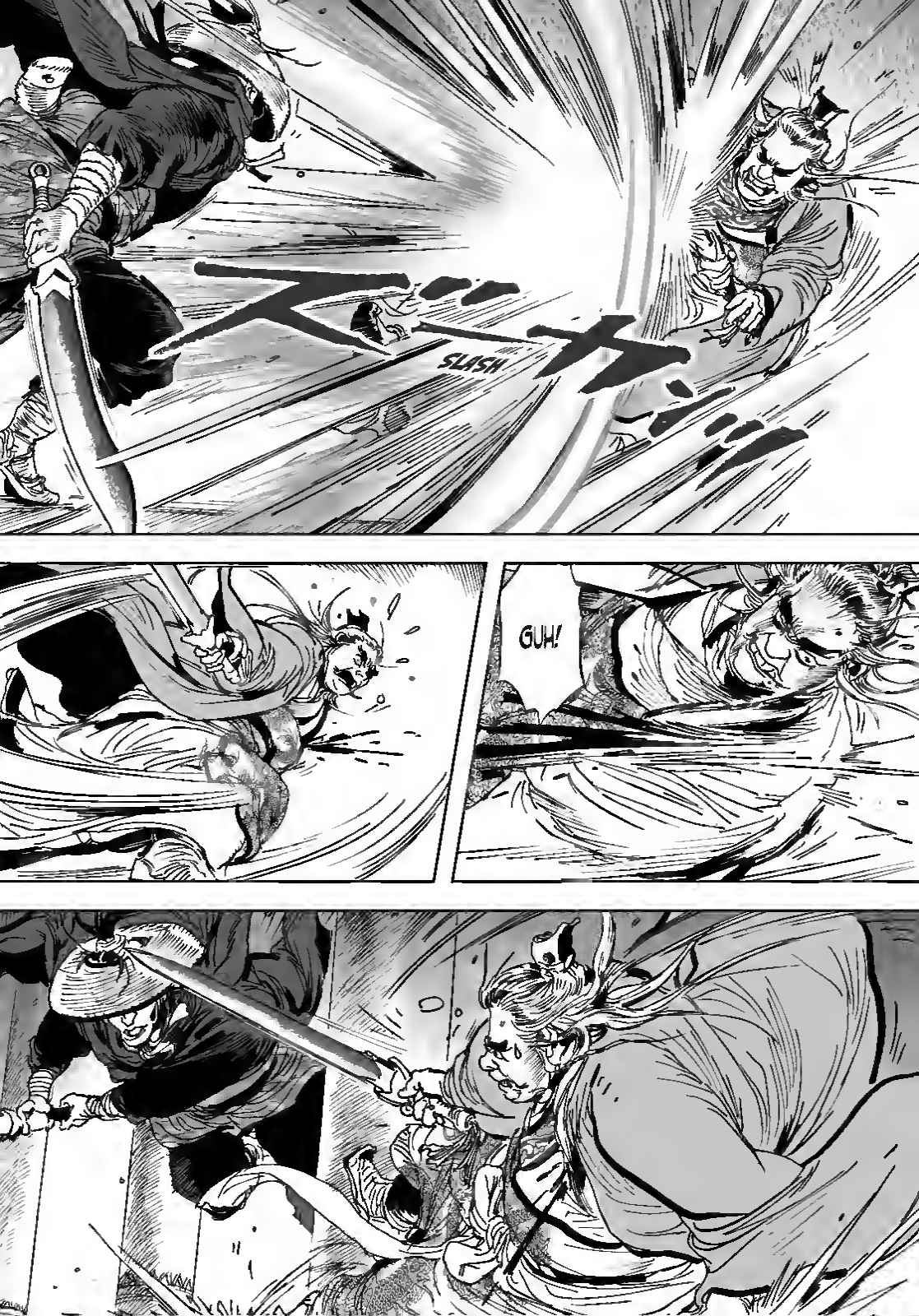

THUD
THUD
THUD

* A nomadic clan to the north that menaced China from the times of Emperor Wu

GENERAL, I HAD HEARD THAT YOU WERE A HEROIC MAN WHO COULD TAKE ON THE XIONGNU* WITH TWO QUIVERS ON YOUR BACK, COCKING AND FIRING ARROWS EVERY WHICH WAY WHILE RIDING ON HORSEBACK.
BUT YOU'RE SO FAT AS A PIG NOW, THAT THERE'S NO TRACE OF YOUR PAST SELF. HA HA HA HA!

I'M DONE WITH PLAYING AROUND.
SWF
!
LET'S END THIS.
AAARGH!!

CRACK


SLASH
GUH!

WHUMP
CLANG
STOMP

IT'S TIME TO DIE, GENERAL.

WHOA!
ドドドド
THUD
THUD
THUD

KUH!

SH...
SHIT...
I CAN'T...

ドドドド
RRRRUMBLE
TMP
TMP
TMP
GENERAL DONG ZHUO!
GENERAL!

A-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
KUH... KUH...

LI JUE! I WANT THIS DONE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SO DON'T WASTE A SECOND!
DETHRONE EMPEROR HAN SHAO AND KILL HIS SUPPORTER EMPRESS DOWAGER HE!

BY COMMITTING THIS ATROCITY, HE MADE THE EMPEROR'S HALF-BROTHER, THE PRINCE OF CHENLIU, XIE, THE FOURTEENTH EMPEROR.
IN THE SIXTH YEAR OF ZHONGPING (189), DONG ZHUO FINALLY POISONED TO DEATH EMPEROR HAN SHAO'S BIRTH MOTHER, THE EMPRESS DOWAGER HE.

※ Prime Minister

HOW-EVER...
THERE WAS SOMEBODY WAITING FOR DONG ZHUO TO MAKE A MISTAKE.

*A spy of the times

DONG ZHUO HAS KILLED THE EMPRESS DOWAGER HE...
...AND DETHRONED EMPEROR HAN SHAO.
IS THAT SO...
SO HE'S FINALLY DONE IT.
IF YOU WERE TO JOIN FORCES WITH THE LORDS, YOU WOULD SURELY DEFEAT HIM, LORD CAO CAO.
I BELIEVE DONG ZHUO'S ARMY OF 3,000 WOULD BE NO MATCH.

DONG ZHUO LIKELY HAS A HAND OVER THE NEW EMPEROR XIAN.
HOW-EVER...
FLIT
FLIT
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN THE ARMY WE SET UP WILL BECOME REBELS TO THE IMPERIAL CAUSE.
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT THAT?

I FORESAW SUCH A POSSIBLE OUTCOME..
...AND SO OBTAINED AN IMPERIAL EDICT* AHEAD OF TIME.
NOTHING LESS FROM A FIVE-TIED ONE! MOST OBLIGING!
HA HA HA HA!
IF WE CAN FABRICATE THE OFFICAL STAMP USED ON THIS AND SEND OUT A FAKE IMPERIAL ORDER, THE PROBLEM WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF!

*A document decreeing orders from the Emperor

IS ANYBODY HERE?!
BRING ME A TORCH! WE'RE GOING TO DISPATCH A MANIFESTO AND CRUSH DONG ZHUO!

HOWEVER, AT PRECISELY THAT TIME, NOT EVEN A FIVE-TIED ONE COULD TELL CAO CAO THAT THE STRONGEST MONSTER IN THE RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS HAD ARRIVED AT LUOYANG.

THIS IS NO PLACE FOR SOME TOWN CONTROLLER* TO SHOW UP.
DON'T YOU KNOW WE'RE MASTER DONG ZHUO'S SOLDIERS?
OTHERWISE, WE'LL CHOP YOU TO BITS!
STEP ASIDE!

* Police Patrol

...

NOW WE'RE PISSED! DIE!!
YOU ASSHOLE!

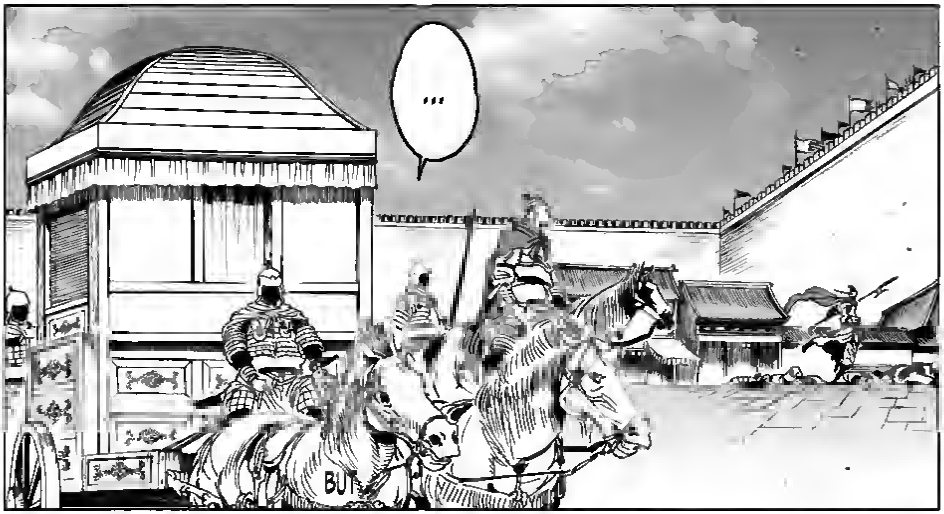
ザシュッ
SLASH
ガッ
WHACK

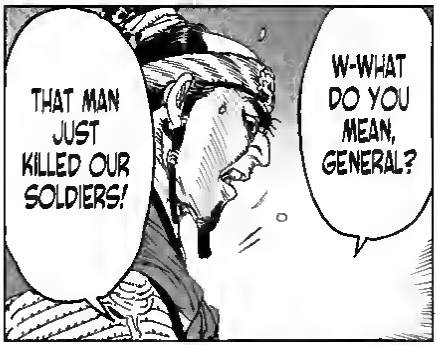
THUD
SH...
SHIT!

THUNK
WHACK
SLICE
H-HOLD IT!

I'LL GIVE BACK THE GIRL, SO JUST FORGIVE ME...
I WAS WRONG!
S-STAY BACK!
...
ONE STEP CLOSER AND I'LL KILL HER!

PLEASE... SAVE ME!

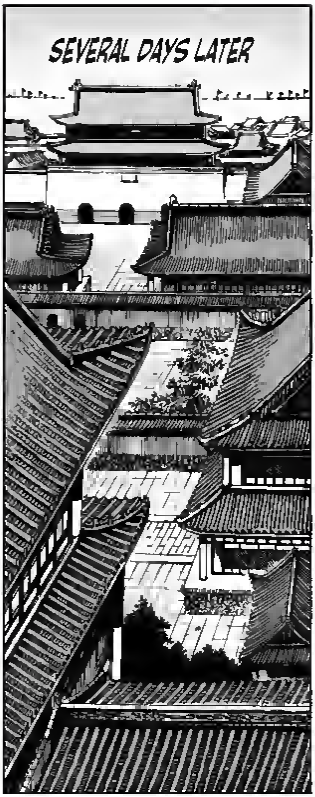

...
BUT


THAT MAN JUST KILLED OUR SOLDIERS!
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN, GENERAL?

I KNOW.
BUT...

LI JUE.
LOOK INTO THE IDENTITY OF THAT MAN.

AREN'T YOU AMAZED THAT SUCH A STRONG MAN SHOULD BE IN THE CAPITAL?
WHAT I WANT MORE THAN A THOUSAND SMALL-FRIES IS ONE MAN OF VALOR!


SEVERAL DAYS LATER

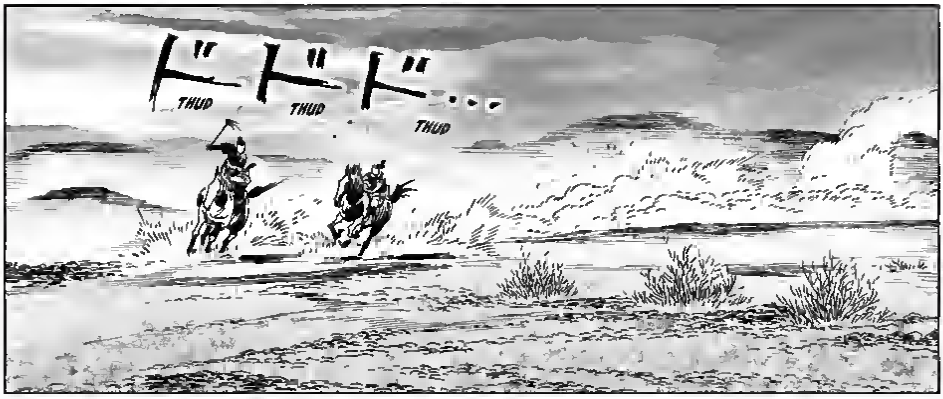
WHAT'S HIS NAME?
OH, YEAH?

WE'VE UNEARTHED THAT MAN'S TRUE IDENTITY, GENERAL!

HIS NAME IS LÜ BU FENGXIAN!
THE ADOPTED SON OF DING YUAN, MAYOR OF THE CAPITAL.*1
INDEED.
HE WAS SUMMONED BY GENERAL HE JIN AND IS NOW IN CHARGE OF LUOYANG'S DEFENSES.
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, DING YUAN WAS THE MAN ASSIGNED AS PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR OF BINGZHOU*2 AND HAS AN ARMY OF 20,000!
DING YUAN'S SON...

*1 Director of Police in the Capital *2 County Director

WELL, THEN.
DID YOU LEARN ANY DETAILS ABOUT LÜ BU'S BACKGROUND?
I SEE.
SO DING YUAN'S ADOPTED SON IS LÜ BU, IS IT?
YES.
HE IS FROM JIUYUAN COUNTY IN WUYUAN COMMANDERY (MODERN DAY MONGOLIA). HIS FATHER IS UNKNOWN BUT UNTIL HIS MOTHER'S DEATH AT THE AGE OF FOURTEEN, HE WAS RAISED AS AN ONLY CHILD WITH HIS SINGLE MOTHER. HOWEVER...


THUD
THUD
THUD

HIS MOTHER WAS QUITE A WOMAN. IT SEEMS SHE LIVED FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF TRAINING HER SON TO BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED SOLDIER.

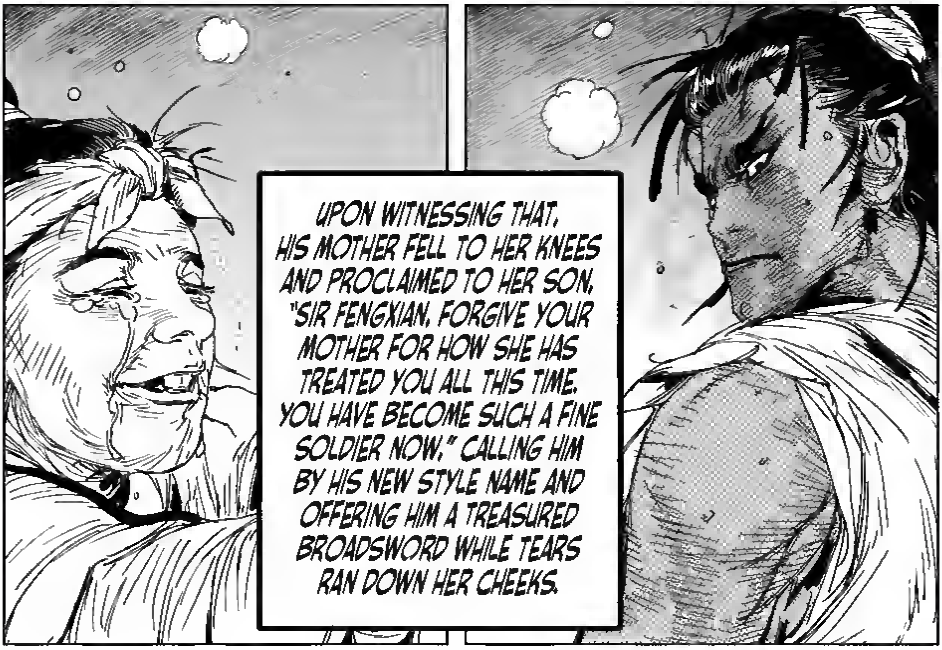
AS EVIDENCE OF THAT, THIS WOMAN...

...GAVE NO PLAYTHINGS TO THE YOUNG BOY, AND INSTEAD ORDERED HIM TO STRIKE HIS BODY IN EARNEST AGAINST A TOWERING OAK TREE IN THE GARDEN.
SHE WANTED A YOUNG CHILD TO BRING DOWN A GIANT OAK, DID SHE?
YES.
THAT IS WHAT I HAVE HEARD.

HMMM.
THEN WHAT?
HE CONTINUED THROWING HIS BODY AGAINST THE GIANT TREE IN RAIN OR SHINE...

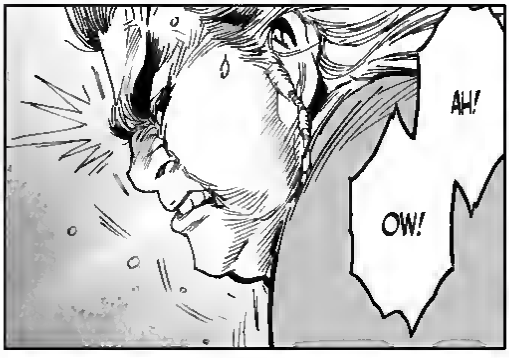
...UNTIL ONE DAY WHEN HE WAS THIRTEEN YEARS OLD...

...HE AT LAST BROKE DOWN THAT GIANT TREE WITH A GREAT CRASH.
KRRAAASH

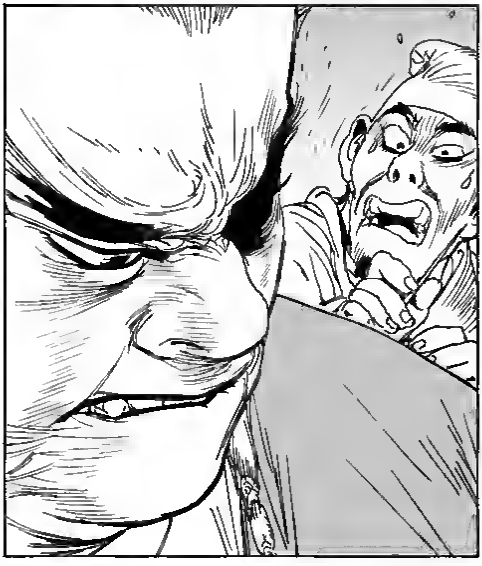

UPON WITNESSING THAT, HIS MOTHER FELL TO HER KNEES AND PROCLAIMED TO HER SON, "SIR FENGXIAN, FORGIVE YOUR MOTHER FOR HOW SHE HAS TREATED YOU ALL THIS TIME. YOU HAVE BECOME SUCH A FINE SOLDIER NOW," CALLING HIM BY HIS NEW STYLE NAME AND OFFERING HIM A TREASURED BROADSWORD WHILE TEARS RAN DOWN HER CHEEKS.

SO!
THAT'S THE KIND OF MAN WE'RE DEALING WITH.

I SEE.
BY HIS STYLE NAME...

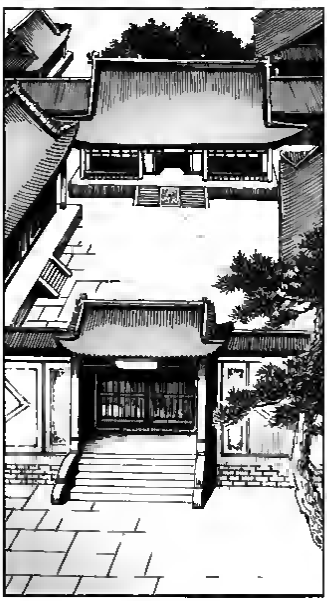

AH!
OW!

I WAS SO NERVOUS, MY HAND SLIPPED!
F-FORGIVE ME...



FEED THIS MAN TO THE DOGS!
NOW THEN.
WHAT'S HIS WEAKNESS?
W... WEAKNESS, SIR?
I ALREADY UNDERSTAND THAT THIS LÜ BU FELLOW IS A SOLDIER OF UNPRECEDENTED BRAVERY.
THAT'S RIGHT.

BUT UNLESS HE'S SOME SORT OF DEMON, HE MUST HAVE A WEAK SPOT.
INDEED, YOU'RE RIGHT.
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS WOULD QUALIFY AS A WEAKNESS, BUT...
...I'VE HEARD THAT HE'S HEAD-OVER-HEELS SMITTEN WITH HIS WIFE, ELEVEN YEARS HIS SENIOR.
HIS FOSTER FATHER, DING YUAN, FEELS SHE HOLDS HIM BACK AND WON'T ALLOW HIM TO SUMMON HER TO LUOYANG.
WELL, WELL...
DING YUAN SAID THAT?!



YOU WILL REPORT BACK TO ME WITH WHATEVER HE HAS TOLD YOU.
LISTEN WELL, FENGXIAN. YOU MAY HAVE BEEN CALLED FOR BY DONG ZHUO, BUT NO MATTER WHAT HE SAYS, YOU MUSTN'T GIVE HIM A DEFINITE ANSWER ON THE SPOT.

DON'T GET MIXED UP WITH HIM!
YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND, BUT THAT MAN'S RULE IS NEARING ITS END.
...

NO, NOT JUST FULL-FLEDGED.
THE REASON I TOOK YOU IN IS BECAUSE I SAW YOU BECOMING A FULL-FLEDGED MILITARY COMMANDER.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND, FENGXIAN?
MAINTAIN YOUR AMBITIONS AND BECOMIE A FINE MILITARY COMMANDER THAT WOULD MAKE YOUR LATE MOTHER PROUD.

SO NO MATTER WHAT YOU, MUST NOT ACT RASHLY AND WAIT FOR THE TIME TO COME.
IN ALL OF THE HAN EMPIRE, THERE IS NO MAN WHO CAN MATCH YOUR BRAVERY.

FATHER.
I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU SAY, BUT AM I STILL NOT ALLOWED TO SUMMON MY WIFE YAO TO THE CAPITAL?
YOU'RE STILL GOING ON ABOUT THAT?!
HAVE YOU ANY IDEA HOW MANY HEROES HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES TO WOMEN SINCE THE CHUNQIU-WARRING STATE ERA?!
HOW MANY TIMES MUST I TELL YOU?! WOMEN ARE NOTHING BUT A BURDEN TO A MAN OF AMBITION!

...
I SHALL ASSIGN YOU AS IMPERIAL COMMANDANT OF THE CAVALRY* AND GIVE YOU 1,000 SOLDIERS TO DO WHATEVER YOU PLEASE WITH!
I LIKE YOUR BRAVERY!

*A defensive officer

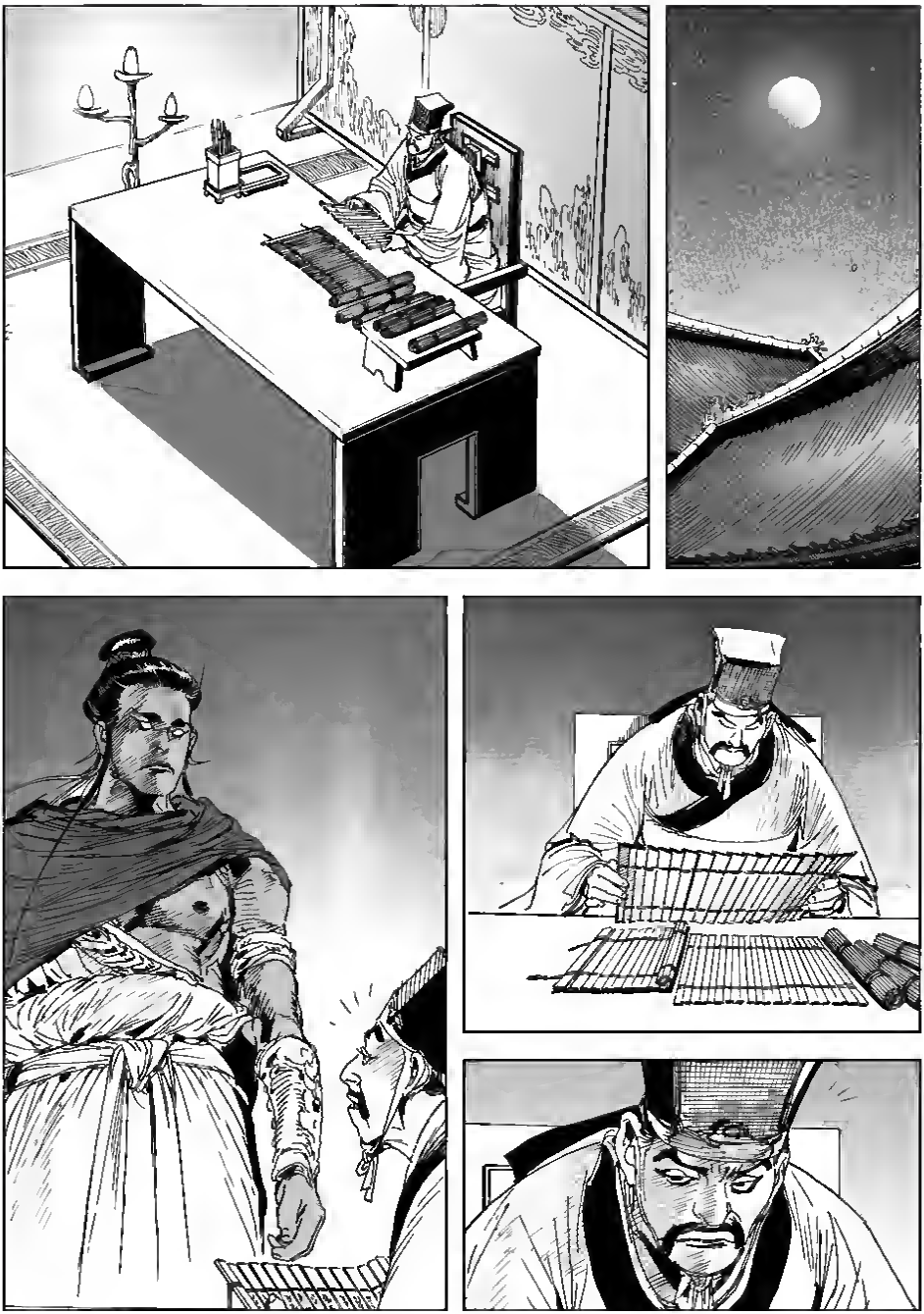
WHAT'S THE MATTER, LÜ BU? YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY.
A PATROL CAPTAIN LIKE YOU BEING PROMOTED TO COMMANDANT OF THE CAVALRY IS NOTHING SHORT OF A DREAM!

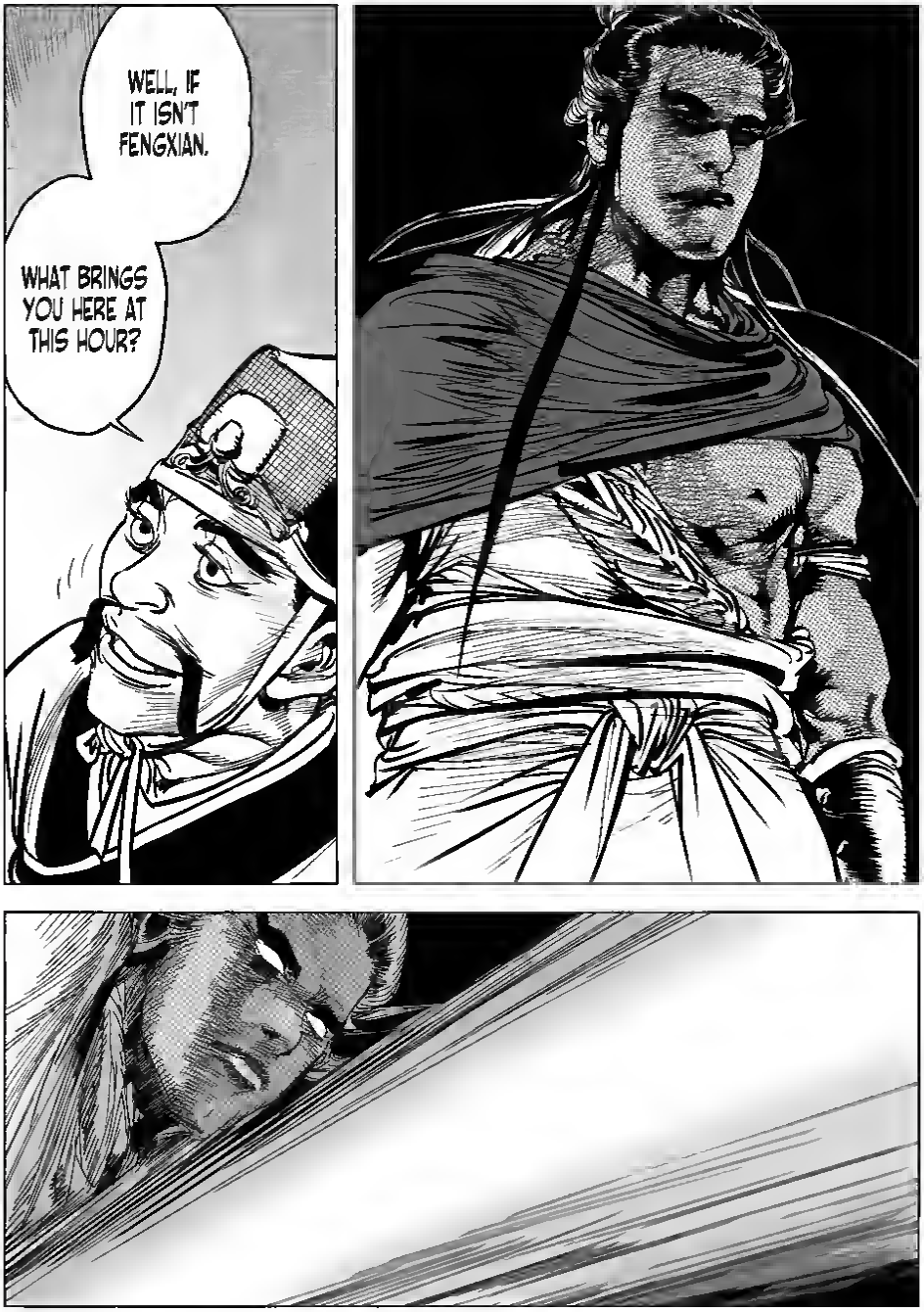
HA HA HA HA! LI JUE, DON'T BE GET SO UPSET.
LÜ BU, IS STILL AT A LOSS, WHAT WITH THIS BEING HIS FIRST TIME IN THE PALACE.
!
IF YOU MAN MY DEFENSES AS COMMANDANT OF THE CAVALRY, I'LL ALLOW YOU TO CALL YOUR WIFE TO THE CAPITAL.
WHAT DO YOU SAY, LÜ BU? I'LL SWEETEN THE DEAL FOR YOU EVEN MORE.

BUT FOR SUCH A GENEROUS PRIVILEGE, I HAVE ONE CONDITION.
OF COURSE.
YOU MEAN I CAN BRING MY WIFE TO LUOYANG?
CONDITION ?
KILL DING YUAN AND BRING ME HIS HEAD.
THAT'S RIGHT.
WHAT'S THE MATTER ?
YOU DON'T LIKE IT?
...

A HORSE?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WILL I GET A HORSE?
I AM TALKING ABOUT RED HARE, THE PRIME MINISTER'S STEED.
HAVE YOU ANY IDEA ABOUT THAT HORSE?! RED HARE IS A FAMOUS STALLION BOUGHT FROM THE EAST FOR 10,000 GOLD PIECES!
I CANNOT LISTEN QUIETLY TO THIS! DON'T GET SO FULL OF YOURSELF!

BUT I AM QUITE FIXATED ON HIM.
VERY WELL THEN.
IN EXCHANGE, BE SURE TO BRING ME DING YUAN'S HEAD!
I'LL GIVE YOU RED HARE!




WELL, IF IT ISN'T FENGXIAN.
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE AT THIS HOUR?

ズバッ
SLASH

AAAH
WHO?
HOW COULD YOU KILL YOUR OWN FATHER?!
H-HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND, MASTER LÜ BU?
REMAIN CALM!

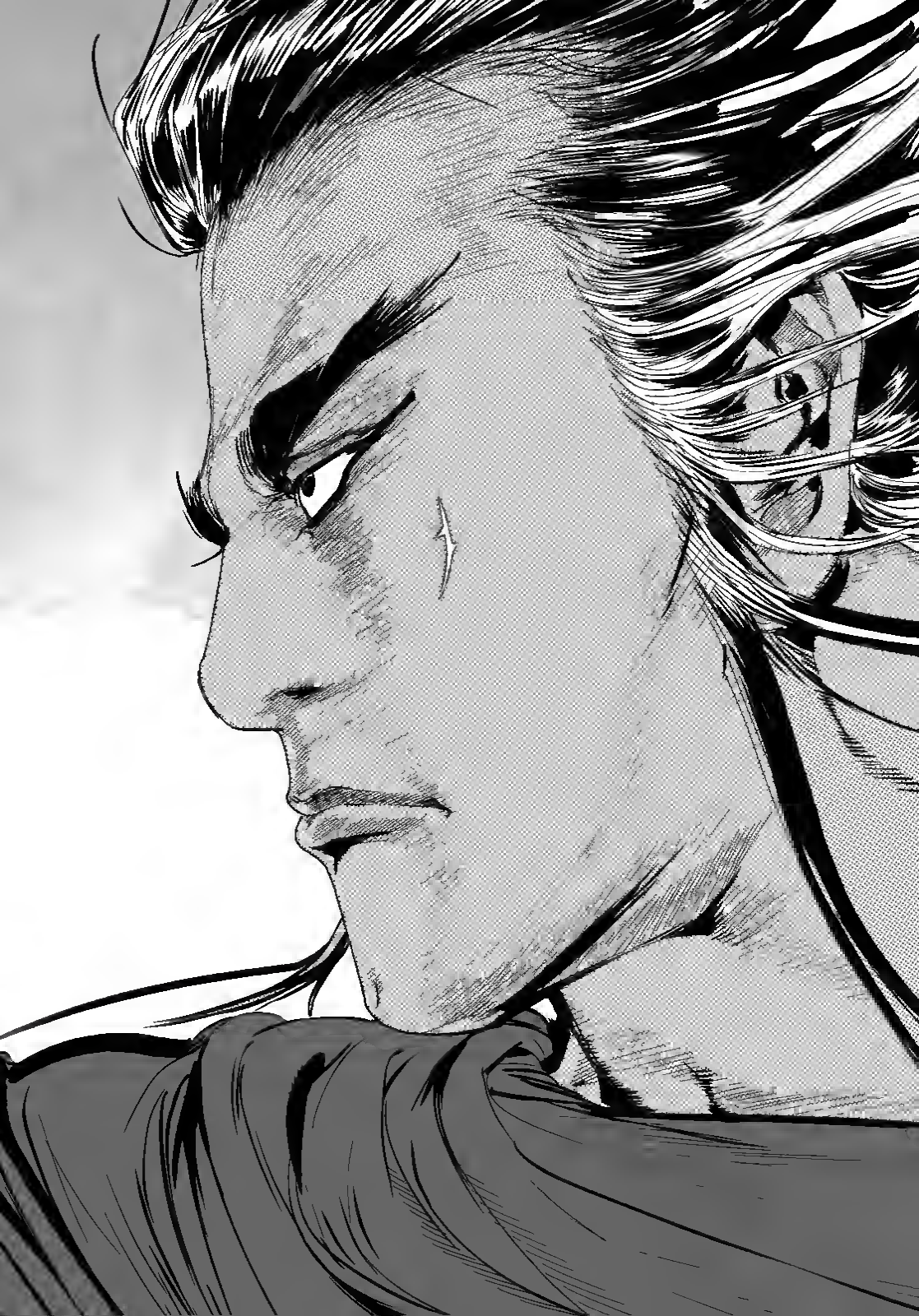
ANYONE WHO DEFIES US WILL BE ELIMINATED HERE AND NOW!
AS OF THIS VERY MOMENT, DING YUAN'S ARMY IS NOW UNDER THE RULE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, MASTER DONG ZHUO!

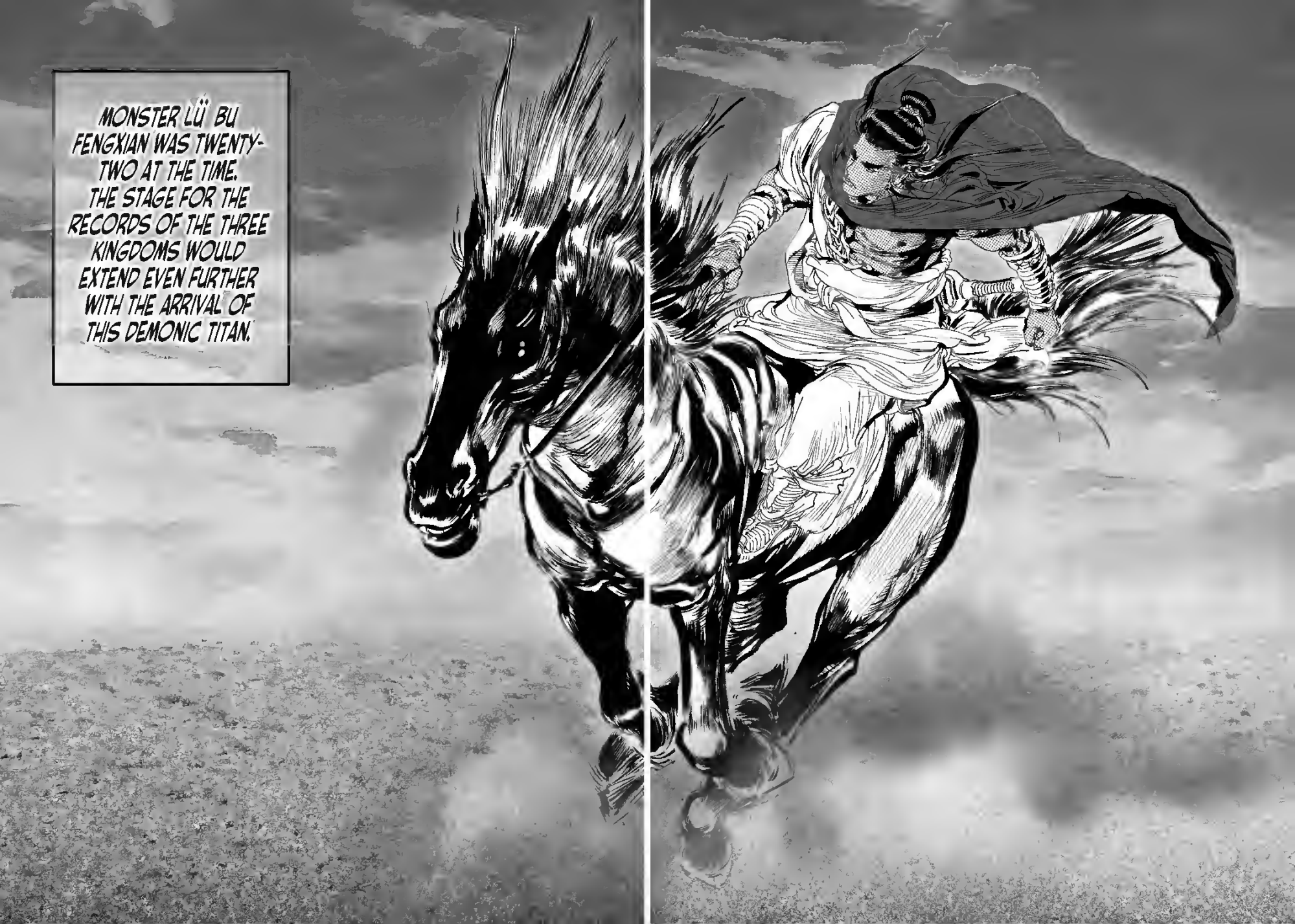
WHERE'S THE HORSE?
LÜ BU, GOOD WORK.
MASTER DONG ZHUO WILL BE MOST PLEASED.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN YOUR PROMISE?
HORSE?
WHAT HORSE?

OH... RIGHT! RED HARE!
HE'S IN MASTER DONG ZHUO'S STABLES.
B-BUT WHAT WOULD YOU WANT WITH RED HARE SO LATE AT NIGHT?
I'M GOING TO FETCH MY WIFE.
FETCH HER? BUT IT'S 200 LI TO BINGZHOU!
HE MEANS TO GO WITHOUT EVEN PREPARING FOR THE TRIP?!

LÜ BU'S WIFE MUST BE QUITE A WOMAN.
I DUNNO. I HAVEN'T SEEN HER MYSELF.
WELL, IF SHE WASN'T THEN HE WOULDN'T TRAVEL 200 LI FOR HER.
I HEARD HE KIDNAPPED SOMEONE ELSE'S WIFE AND MADE HER BE HIS WIFE FOR THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS AT A TIME.
BUT I HEARD SHE'S A PLAIN-LOOKING 40-YEAR-OLD LADY.
HE'S ACTUALLY HEAD-OVER-HEELS FOR SOMEONE LIKE THAT? I GUESS THERE'S NO ACCOUNTING FOR TASTE.

DON'T TALK THAT WAY AROUND HIM, EVEN IF IT'S ONLY IN JEST.
YOU SAW THE CUT HE MADE INTO DING YUAN.
LÜ BU IS A MONSTER OF A MAN.




MONSTER LÜ BU FENGXIAN WAS TWENTY-TWO AT THE TIME. THE STAGE FOR THE RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS WOULD EXTEND EVEN FURTHER WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THIS DEMONIC TITAN.

BUT MEANWHILE, LIU BEI AND HIS COMRADES, WHO HAD PUNISHED THE INSPECTOR AND BECOME WANTED MEN, WERE WALLOWING IN DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES.
WE'RE OUT OF RICE?
WHAT?

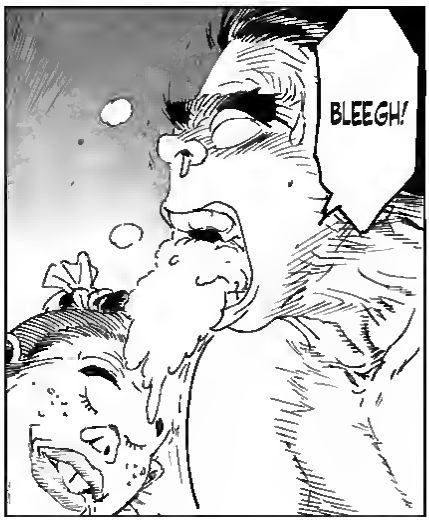
I'M SORRY, BUT THE RICE GRUEL YOU HAD THIS MORNING WERE YOUR LAST BOWLFULS.
DON'T TALK THAT WAY, ZHANG FEI. WE'RE NOT THIEVES!
THEN WHAT ARE WE?!
WE COULD'VE FILLED OUR BELLIES WITH ANYTHING WE WANTED.
THAT'S WHY WE SHOULD'VE ATTACKED THAT VILLAGE WE PASSED YESTERDAY.

WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR PLAN TO TAKE OVER THE COUNTRY?!
WE'VE SPENT THIS PAST YEAR BEING CHASED BY OFFICIALS AND GETTING RUN RAGGED!
FINE, IF THAT'S HOW IT IS!
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT!
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE!
GET OUT OF HERE AND NEVER COME BACK!
SO LONG!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE! I'M OUTTA HERE!!

SIR GUAN YU...
...
LEAVE IT!
LET HIM GO! HE'S NO BROTHER OF MINE ANYMORE!

THE NEXT DAY
TOWER OF BEAUTIES
AAAH...

I CAN'T TAKE IT IN HERE!
I NEED AIR!


BLEEGH!

SHEE-IT!
NOTHING BEATS THE FRESH MORNING AIR!
THIS IS WHAT THEY MEAN BY BEING WARMED UP FROM THE INSIDE!
HM?

BROTHER!

EVERYONE! I GOT US FOOD AND DRINKS!
SIR GUAN YU!

HM?
W-WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU ALL LOOK SO SULLEN.
PLOP
MASTER LIU BEI!
I'M SO SORRY!

FOR OUR MEASLY SAKES, YOU SOLD OFF YOUR TREASURED SWORD, THE PROOF OF YOUR BLOOD RELATION TO PRINCE JING OF ZHONGSHAN.
W-WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
HIM.

SO YOU CAUGHT ME IN THE ACT, ZHANG FEI!
HA HA HA HA!
WITHOUT YOUR SWORD, WITH ITS GLITTERING CHAIN OF JEWELS ON THE GOLDEN BELT PENDANT, YOU CAN NEVER AGAIN CLAIM YOURSELF AS DESCENDENT OF PRINCE JING OF ZHONGSHAN!
THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER, MASTER LIU BEI.

BESIDES, PEOPLE HAVE TO EAT.
I PERSONALLY DON'T BELIEVE I'M DESCENDED FROM LIU SHENG EMPEROR JING OF HAN.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT.
MASTER LIU BEI!
AND IT'S MY JOB TO SEE THAT YOU ARE FED.

W-WHAT ARE YOU CRYING FOR?

MASTER LIU BEI!

I'M THE ONE CLOSE TO TEARS, FOR HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE YOU ALL.
I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY OF CAO CAO NOR THE QUICK WITS OF SUN JIAN.
AND YET YOU HAVE ALL FOLLOWED ME, DESPITE MY INEPTITUDE. I KNOW THIS SOUNDS UNMANLY OF ME TO SAY, BUT YOUR GOOD FAVOR MAKES ME SO HAPPY I COULD CRY.

ドドド…
THUD THUD THUD
MASTER LIU BEI!
HONG JI!
WHAT IS IT?!
W-WHY, IT'S HONG JI!
WHAT?!
MASTER LIU BEI, I'VE FOUND IT!
AN ARMY PITTED AGAINST DONG ZHUO WILL SOON BE COMPLETE, WITH CAO CAO, SUN JIAN, AND YUAN SHAO AT ITS HEART!

OOOH!
NOW IS THE TIME TO RISE UP WITH THEM!
I'VE SOLD THE HORSES AND HAVE PLENTY OF WAR FUNDS PREPARED!
I DIDN'T HAVE THE MONEY TO PAY FOR MY NIGHT WITH AN ESCORT, AND NOW THEY'RE COMING AFTER ME FOR THE BILL.
THE TRUTH IS...
W-WHAT'S THE MATTER, BROTHER ZHANG FEI?
DON'T YOU WANT TO GO OUT AND GREET HIM?

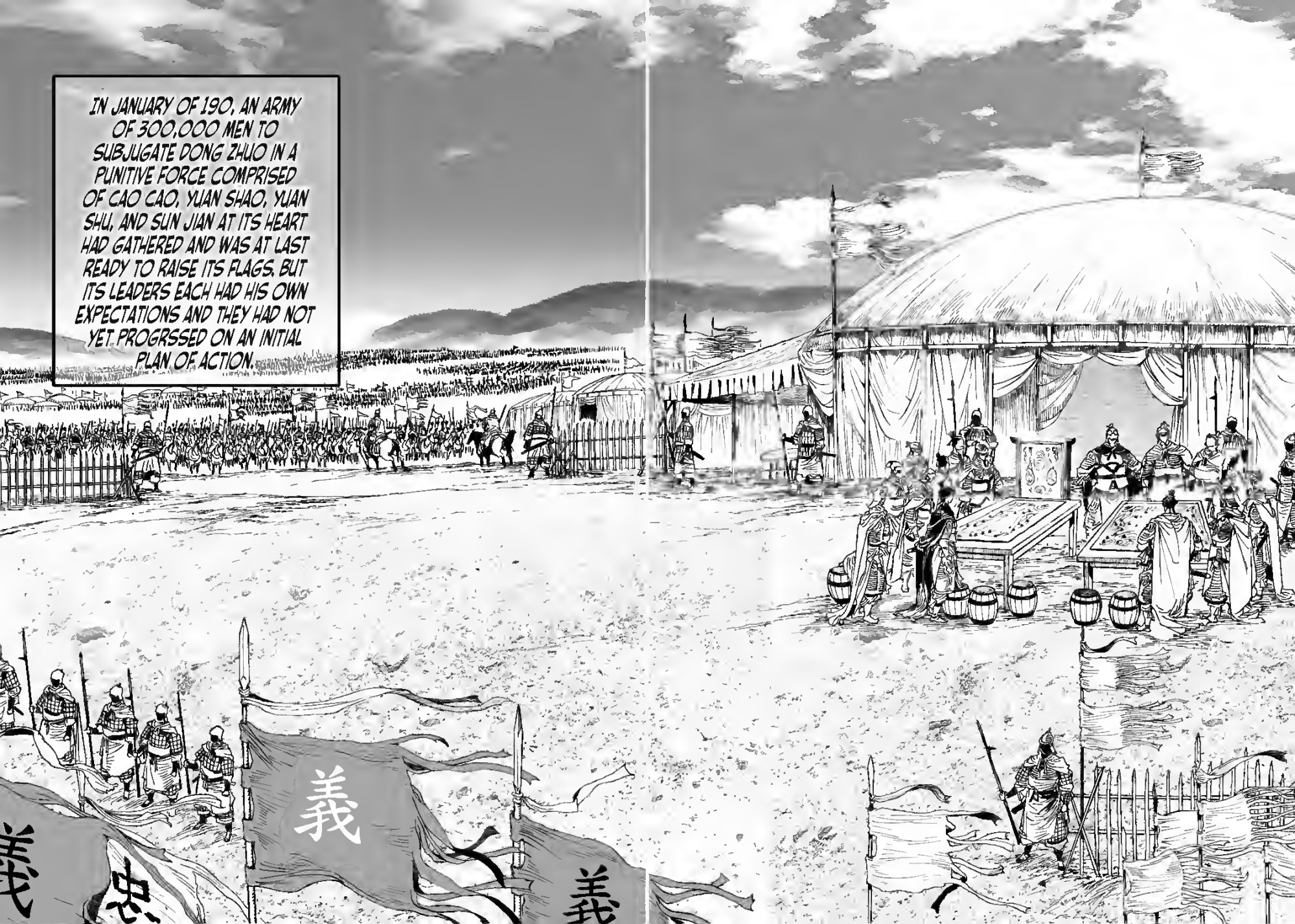
※

YOUR DEBTS ARE MY DEBTS, ZHANG FEI. I'LL PAY ON YOUR BEHALF.
HA HA. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
DROP THE GRIM FACE! I'LL PAY YOU IN FULL SO GET OVER HERE!
HEY, YOU BILL COLLECTOR!
THANKS! THAT'S WHAT BIG BROTHERS ARE FOR!
MASTER LIU BEI, PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
ZHANG FEI REALLY IS HOPELESS.

WE'RE GOING TO NEED ZHANG FEI'S STRENGTH TO ENTER INTO THE NATION'S SPOTLIGHT NOW.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

IT'S BEEN A LONG YEAR, BUT...
...IT SEEMS AT LAST WE'VE BEEN GRANTED AN ACTIVE ROLE.


IN JANUARY OF 190, AN ARMY OF 300,000 MEN TO SUBJUGATE DONG ZHUO IN A PUNITIVE FORCE COMPRISED OF CAO CAO, YUAN SHAO, YUAN SHU, AND SUN JIAN AT ITS HEART HAD GATHERED AND WAS AT LAST READY TO RAISE ITS FLAGS, BUT ITS LEADERS EACH HAD HIS OWN EXPECTATIONS AND THEY HAD NOT YET PROGRSSED ON AN INITIAL PLAN OF ACTION.
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LORD GONGSUN ZAN'S ARMY HAS JUST ARRIVED!

SORRY I'M LATE.
GREETINGS, LORDS!
OH! GENERAL OF BAIMA HAS FINALLY ARRIVED!

SO SORRY THEN.
HA HA!
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU MOST EAGERLY, LORD GONGSUN ZAN.
WE'VE DISCUSSED IT AND DECIDED TO HAVE THIS HERE LORD SUN JIAN BE IN THE VANGUARD.
NOW NOW. NO NEED TO HURRY, GENERAL OF BAIMA.
MY ARMY OF 20,000 CAN ATTACK ANY TIME.
SO, WHEN DOES THE BATTLE BEGIN?

MY NAME IS SUN JIAN WENTAI.
A PLEASURE MEETING YOU!
I'VE HEARD STORIES ABOUT YOU, LORD SUN JIAN.
YOU WENT FROM BEING A MINISTER OF WAR TO VICEROY OF CHANGSHA, AND THEN SUBJUGATED THE REBEL army AND WAS ASSIGNED POSITION OF MARQUIS OF WUCHENG. THAT'S AN IMPRESSIVE RECORD OF PROMOTIONS.
NO, NOT QUITE.
BY THE WAY, I CAME HERE...
...IN RESPONSE TO YOUR WRITTEN APPEAL, LORD CAO CAO. SO I TAKE IT THIS PUNITIVE FORCE IS BEING HEADED BY YOU?
OH?
THEN WHO...

CAO CAO HAS ONLY 5,000 TROOPS UNDER HIS COMMAND, SO I, YUAN SHAO, HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE ROLE OF GENERAL.
I WAS UNDER THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT I WOULD BE WORKING FOR LORD CAO CAO.
BY THE WAY, LORD GONGSUN ZAN.
WHO ARE THOSE MEN BEHIND YOU?
IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT WE BE GIVEN THE ROLE OF SUPREME COMMANDERS.
THE MILITARY POWER OF THE YUAN BROTHERS IS 50,000 STRONG. THAT'S THE BIGGEST FACTION OF THE ALLIED FORCES.
OH! HOW TERRIBLY RUDE OF ME!

THEY TELL ME THEY ARE ACQUAINTANCES OF LORD CAO CAO AND YOURSELF, LORD SUN JIAN.
THESE ARE MY GUEST COMMANDERS, LIU BEI XUANDE AND HIS FOLLOWERS.

NEVER SEEN 'EM IN MY LIFE.
I DON'T KNOW THESE GUYS.

I FOUGHT ALONGSIDE THEM IN ZHU JUN'S ARMY WHEN WE WERE SUBJUGATING THE YELLOW TURBANS.
WE KNOW THEM WELL.

WHAT'D YOU SAY, YOU PIRATE SCUM?!
DID YOU FORGET WHAT YOU PUT US THROUGH THANKS TO YOUR ANTICS ?!
ENOUGH, ZHANG FEI!
WE'RE IN FRONT OF THE LORDS.
WE'VE GATHERED HERE TO BRING DOWN THE VILLAIN OF DONG ZHUO, SO LET'S GET ALONG AS BRETHREN OF A COMMON CAUSE.
HA HA HA HA! IT DOESN'T MATTER IF WE GOT OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT.

NOW THEN, THIS SHOULD WRAP UP OUR STRATEGY.
THE SHISUI PASS THAT WE ARE ABOUT TO ATTACK IS A STRATEGIC POSITION LINKED TO LUOYANG.
BUT THE DONG ZHUO ARMY THAT GUARDS COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE 50,000.
WHEN THEY SEE OUR ALLIED FORCS OF 40, 000 FILLING 30 LI WITHOUT A GAP, THEY'LL PROBABLY TURN TAIL WITHOUT EVEN A FIGHT.
FROM SHISUI PASS, IT'S TWO DAYS' TIME TO LUOYANG. WE MIGHT BE SIPPING DRINKS IN THE CAPITAL BY THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
...

I WAS THINKING THE EXACT SAME THING, GUAN YU.
MASTER LIU BEI.
DO YOU FIND SOMETHING ODD ABOUT THIS SCENE?
SUN JIAN'S ARROGANCE STRIKES ME AS STRANGE.
AND WHAT OF CAO CAO'S LACK OF ENTHUSIASM?
HE'S THAT KIND OF GUY.
OH, COME ON! CAO CAO'S JUST SULKING BECAUSE HE DIDN'T GET TO BE COMMANDER, BROTHER.

IF WE ATTACKED WITH THIS ENTIRE ARMY, WE REALLY MIGHT GET TO LUOYANG BY THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, LOOK AT THAT MILITARY FORCE.

...

IT TRULY IS A MAGNIFICENT SIGHT!

WHAT HAPPENED, CAO CAO ...?

忠義
CURSES!
KLASH
ガちゃーン

XIAHOU YUAN!
THIS IS A FIGHT...
...WE WILL NOT WIN!
WHAT IS IT, MASTER?!
DON'T YOU SEE?!
I MAY REGRET ASKING THIS, BUT WITH SO MUCH MILITARY FORCE, HOW CAN WE LOSE?
WHY?

BUT HOW MANY OF THEM DO YOU THINK ARE REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT THE FIGHT?
YUAN SHAO, SUN JIAN, AND GONGSUN ZAN HAVE ASSEMBLED AN ARMY OF SEVENTEEN GENERALS AND 300,000 MEN.
SO THEY FEEL INCLINED TO PRESERVE THEIR ARMIES FOR THE FEUD OF SUCCESSION THAT WILL FOLLOW THE FALL OF DONG ZHUO!
STARTING WITH THE YUAN BROTHERS, ALMOST ALL OF THEM FEEL THEY'VE ALREADY WON THE FIGHT JUST BY THE LOOKS OF THEIR PUNITIVE FORCE.
...

YOU'RE SAYING THAT ONLY A FRACTION OF THEM WILL FIGHT?
AND THE SWEEP OF SOLDIERS THAT COVER THIS TERRAIN ARE ONLY GATHERED HERE IN A MOOD OF REVELRY?
INDEED.
GONGSUN ZAN, WHO'S FLATTERED AS GENERAL OF BAIMA, AND THAT POWER-HUNGRY SUN JAIN ARE PROBABLY THE ONLY ONES COMMITTED TO THE FIGHT.

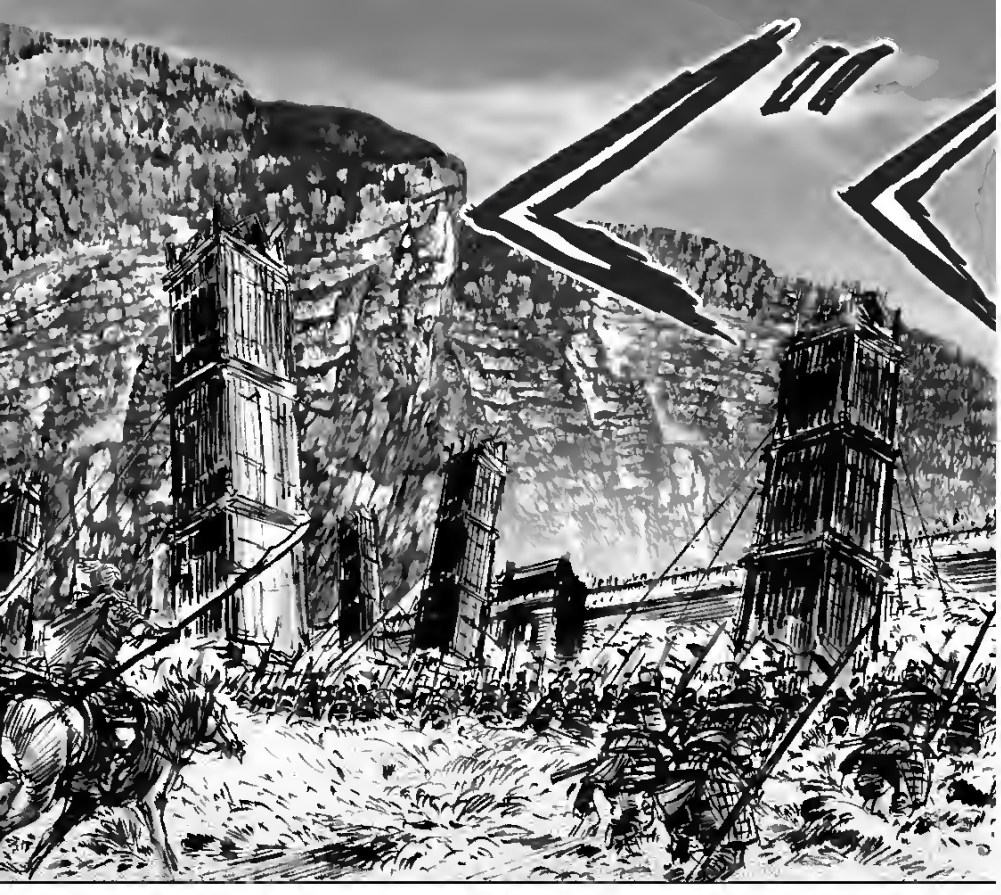
BUT JUST YOU WATCH.
NONE OF THE OTHERS WILL WANT TO SEND EVEN ONE OF HIS SOLDIERS INTO THE BATTLEFIELD!
...
IF THINGS HAD GONE AS I HAD PLANNED, THE ALLIED FORCES WOULD HAVE COMBINED FORCES TO DEFEAT DONG ZHUO, AND THEN THE PARTICIPATING SEVENTEEN GENERALS WOULD HAVE ENTERED AN ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT FOR THE RULE OF THE NATION!

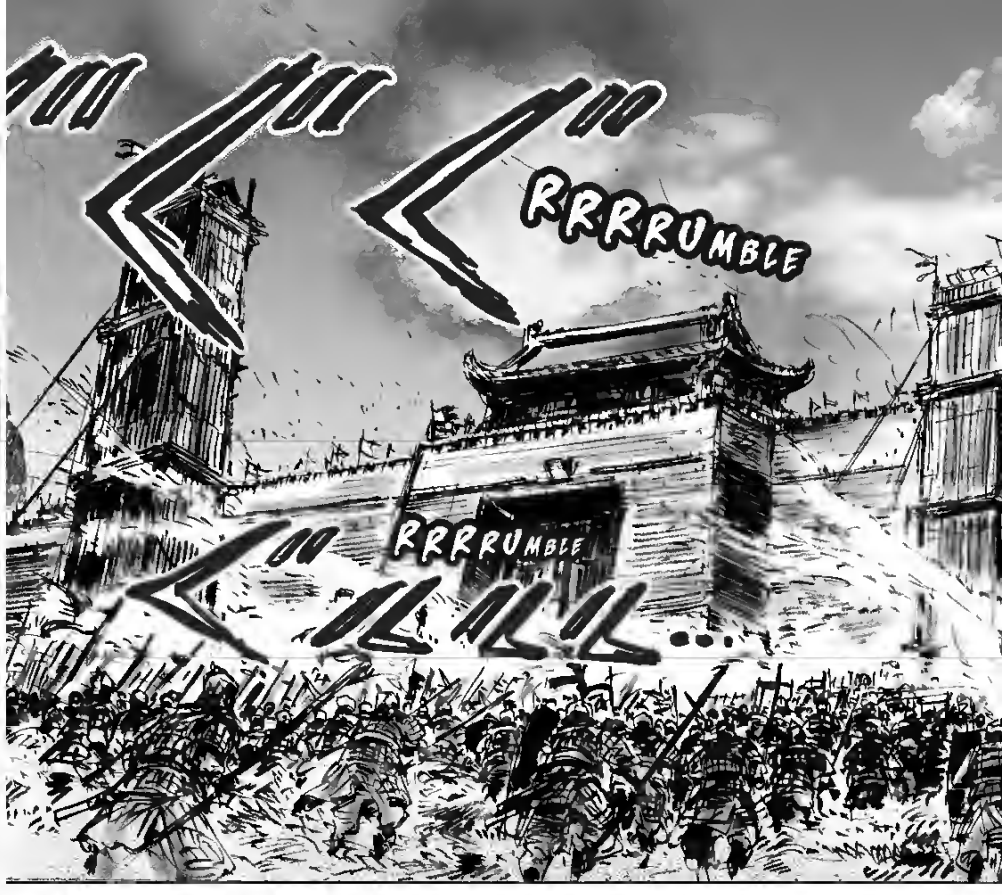
LORD CAO CAO!
BUT...
HOW THINGS STAND NOW, THEY WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO!
FOLLOW ME, XIAHOU YUAN!
WE'LL SEE IF WHAT I SAID WAS TRUE!
SUN JIAN'S ARMY OF 20,000 HAS COMMENCED THE ATTACK!

MAJOR BARRIER
SHISUI PASS

SHISUI PASS WAS A STRATEGIC BARRIER ERECTED MAKING USE OF THE GIANT CLIFFSIDES. ONE HAD TO PASS THROUGH HERE IN ORDER TO REACH LUOYANG.
孫
THAT IS WHY IT BECAME A PLACE THAT DECIDED THE FATE OF DONG ZHUO'S ARMY AND THE ALLIED FORCES.

LISTEN UP!
KEEP YOUR CIRCLE FORMATION AS WE DECIDED!
THE ENEMY IS HOLED UP IN THAT DEFENSIVE WALL AND WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE. DEFEND YOURSELVES FROM ATTACKS FROM ABOVE AND STORM THE CASTLE WALL TO BREAK THROUGH!
DO THAT, AND THIS FIGHT IS WON!
RRRRUMBLE
RRRRUMBLE



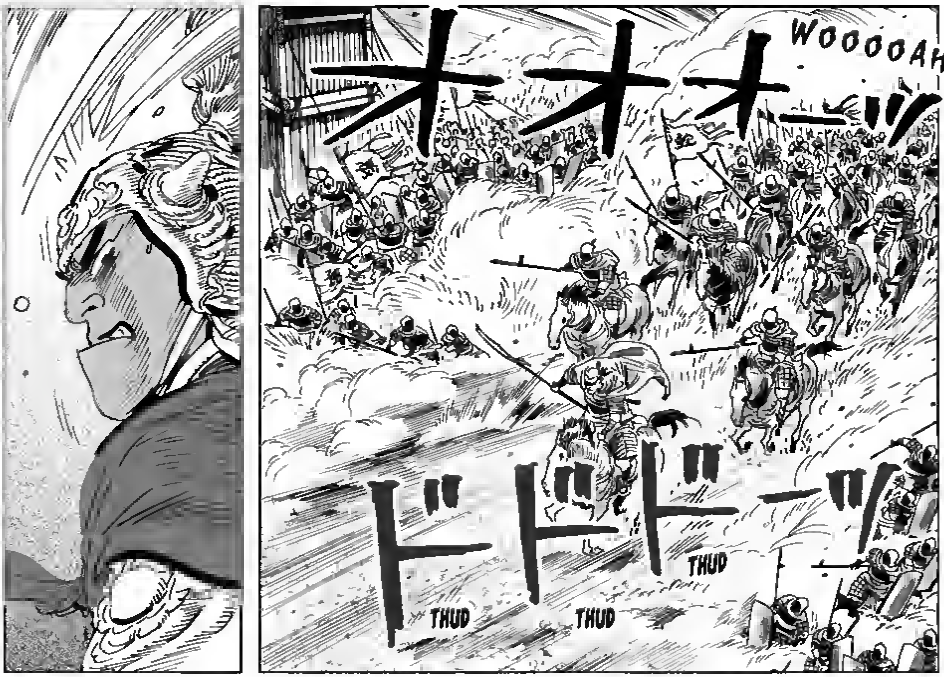

RRRRUMBLE
RRRRUMBLE

THEN WE'D BETTER START PREPARING FOR THE VICTORY FEAST, BROTHER!
AT THIS PACE, WE'LL HAVE THIS SETTLED BY NIGHTFALL!

HA HA HA HA!

DAMMIT!
...
THIS ISN'T EVEN FUNNY!
WE'LL LET THAT PIRATE SCUM GET ALL THE GLORY?

ONCE THE ENEMY ENTERS SHOOTING RANGE, WE'LL SHOWER THEM WITH A BARRAGE OF ARROWS!
IF THE ARROW SUPPORT GETS CUT OFF, THE CASTLE OFFENSIVE TEAM WILL HAVE A HARD FIGHT AHEAD OF THEM.
ARROW-MEN, DON'T FIRE YET!
キリリ…
CREEEAK
キリリ…
CREEEAK


オオオー!!
WOOOOAH!
ドドドドー!!
THUD
THUD
THUD

SIR! BAO XIN STOLE THE MARCH ON US!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!
WHO BROKE FORMATION ?!
THUD
THUD
THUD
WHAT?! YOU MEAN THAT IDIOT BAO XIN FROM JIBEI?!

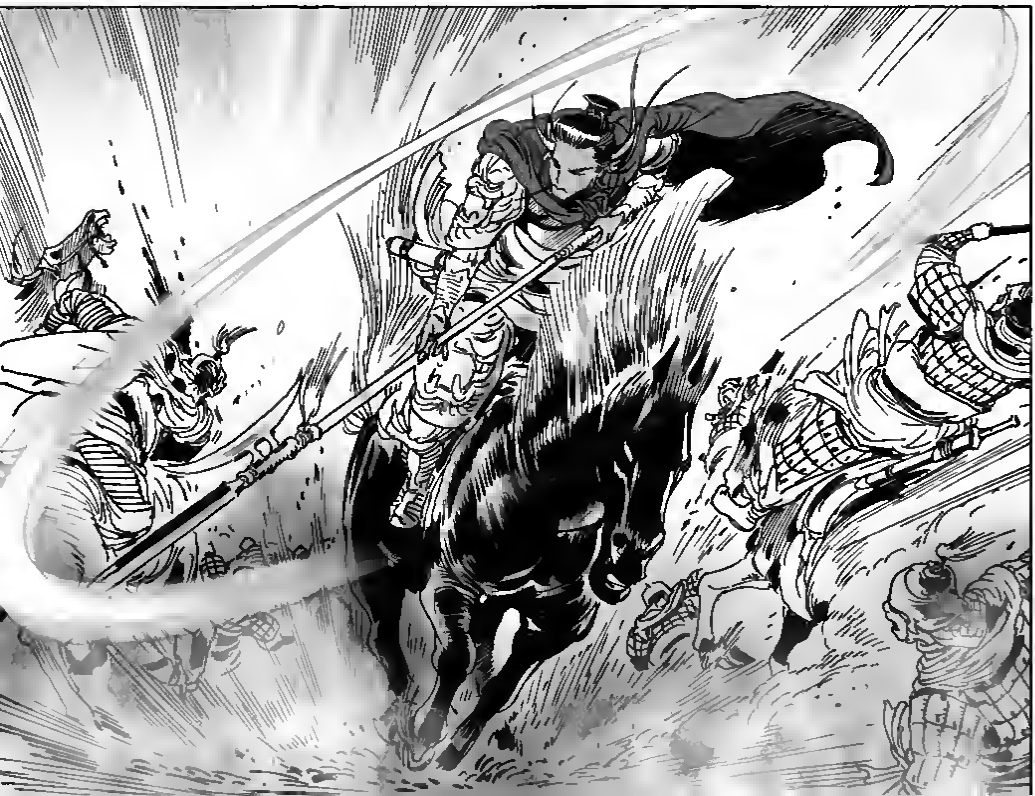
GO! GO!
MY ARMY HAS THE MOST SUPERIOR SPEARS!
WAAAH!
OOOOH!
THUD
THUD
JUST THEN, THE ARMY, WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HOLED UP, ARRIVED AS THOUGH THEY HAD BEEN WAITING FOR IT.

THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
IT WAS THE UNIT LED BY LÜ BU.

馳
孫
馳
ヒヒン
NEEEIGH!

THAT'S JUST WHAT THE ENEMY WANTS! DON'T BACK DOWN!
DON'T BACK DOWN!
!

DOES ANYBODY KNOW WHO THAT MAN IN BLACK ARMOR IS?!
WHO IS THAT MAN?!



SEE?
IT'S JUST AS I SAID.

I NEVER HEARD THAT DONG ZHUO'S ARMY HAD SUCH A SOLDIER!
B-BUT WHO IS THAT MAN WHO MOVES LIKE A DEMON?!

IF NOBODY GOES TO HELP THEM, SUN JIAN'S ARMY WILL BE OBLITERATED!
LÜ BU?

I'VE HEARD THAT MAYOR DING YUAN HAS A STRONG MAN NAMED LÜ BU FOR A SON.
THAT MAY BE HIM.

I DON'T CARE WHO COMES FORWARD, BUT SOMEBODY MUST KNOW WHO THAT MAN IN BLACK ARMOR IS!
OUT WITH IT!

SHOULDN'T YOU COMMAND YOUR TROOPS TO AID THEM, LORD TAO QIAN?
I HAVE NO IDEA.
DO YOU KNOW HIM, LORD LIU DAI?
HOW ABOUT YOU GO INSTEAD, LORD LIU DAI?
LORD YUAN SHAO ORDERED ME TO BE THE REAR GUARD*, SO I COULDN'T VERY WELL ABANDON MY POST.
...
EVEN IF WE WENT, WE'D BE UTTERLY TROUNCED.
NO WAY! MY ARMY IS A MERE 6,000.

* A unit positioned in the back as reinforcements

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
MASTER LIU BEI.

BROTHER!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO RESCUE THOSE PIRATE LOWLIVES!

I'M NOT KIDDING, BROTHER!
THINK ABOUT THE ATTITUDE THAT JERK TOOK WITH US JUST EARLIER!
I AM.
IS THAT A PROBLEM?
I KNOW.
BUT I'M STILL GOING.
BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT IS WHAT "HONOR" IS.

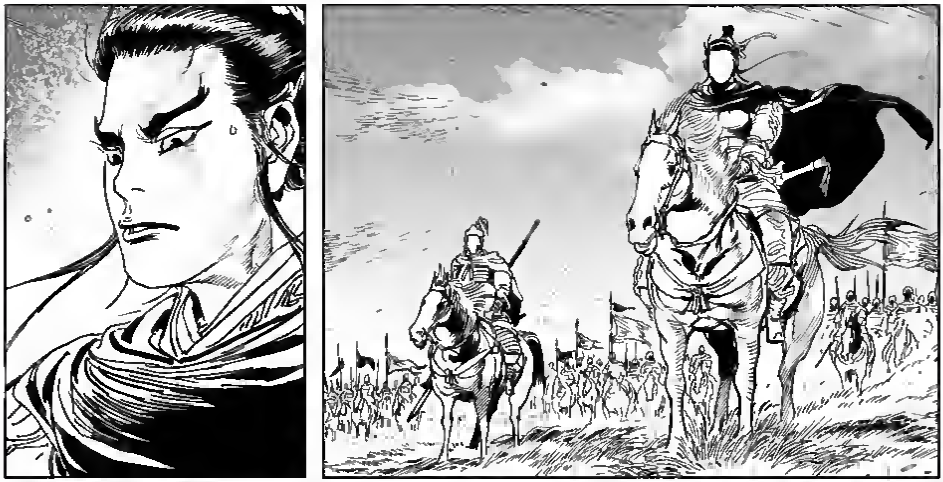
THUD
THUD
THUD
HAAH!
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD

Y-YOU'RE GOING, TOO?!
AREN'T YOU COMING, ZHANG FEI?
A ROUND WITH THAT BLACK WARRIOR SEEMS MORE FUN TO ME!

DAMN IT!
I PICKED THE WRONG GUYS TO BE MY BROTHERS!
WHY DOES IT ALWAYS COME TO THIS?!

F" F" F"
THUD
THUD
THUD
F" F" F"
THUD
THUD
THUD
EVERYONE, GIVE ME YOUR LIVES!
THEY SAY THAT NOT FOLLOWING THROUGH WITH WHAT YOU BELIEVE MAKES YOU A COWARD!
オオオオ
OOOOH!
ドドドドドドドドドド

WHY ARE THEY CHARGING WITHOUT WAITING FOR MY COMMAND ?!
W-WHO'S THAT OVER THERE?!
!
BROTHER! IT'S THAT LIU BEI GUY GONGSUN ZAN BROUGHT AS A GUEST COMMANDER.
LOOK AT THOSE MEN! WHAT DOES HE THINK HE CAN ACCOMPLISH WITH BARELY ONE HUNDRED?
LIU BEI?
HE MUST BE AN IDIOT!



LIU BEI XUANDE.
SO YOU, TOO, ARE COMMITTED?

GUAN YU! ZHANG FEI! YOU TWO TAKE ON THAT MONSTER!
LEAVE THE SMALL FRIES TO ME!
ドドド

I-IT'S LIU BEI AND HIS FOLLOWERS!
W-WHO ARE THOSE GUYS?!

WHAT?! LIU BEI?!
DAMN IT! EVERYBODY'S DOING WHATEVER THEY WANT!
KLASH
SLICE
THIS IS MY BATTLE-FIELD!

THROUGH IT ALL, LÜ BU WAS WREAKING HAVOC.

CLANG

I AM GUAN YU YUNCHANG!
LIU BEI XUANDE IS MY VASSAL!
I'M WITH HIM AND I'M ZHANG FEI YIDE!

KRSSH
THUD
THUD

WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
THUD
THUD
THUD

CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
THUD
THUD
THUD

STAB

ARE YOU OKAY, ZHANG FEI?!
AARGH!

CLANG
STAB
KUUH!
Y-YOU ASSHOLE! NOW I'M MAD!!

TAKE THIS!!
YOU'RE MINE!

EAT STEEL!

THWACK
SH...
SHIT!

CLAAANG

ZSSSH

AT PRECISELY THAT MOMENT, DRUMS COULD BE HEARD FROM OVER THE CASTLE WALL.
DOM
DOM
DOM
DOM
COME ON! THAT'S THE SIGNAL TO RETREAT!
WE'RE PULLING OUT! RETURN TO BASE!

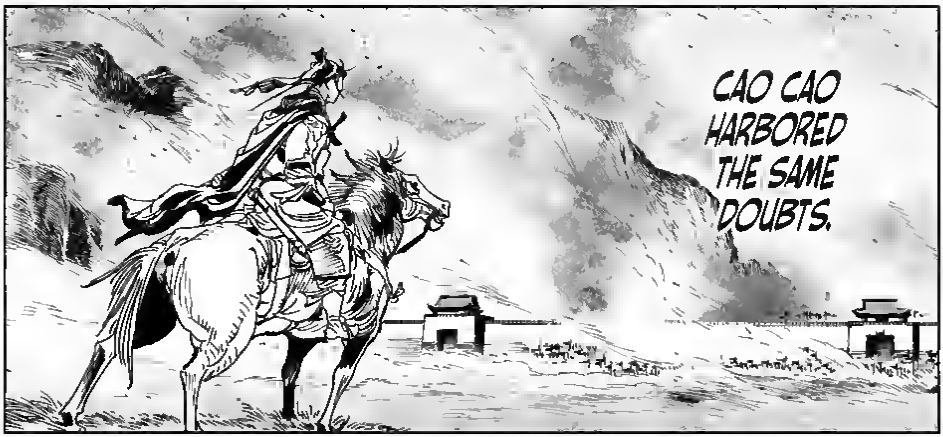
DIRTBAG! WE'RE NOT DONE WITH YOU YET!
YOU RUNNIN' AWAY?!
DON'T WORRY.

WE'LL MEET AGAIN.
UNTIL THEN, DON'T GO DYING ON ME.
KEH!
WHO'S NOT SUPPOSED TO DIE ?!
YOU DON'T GO AND GET YOURSELF KILLED, YOU HEAR?!
YOU'RE THINKING THE SAME THING, GUAN YU?
WHY DID THEY PULL OUT?
IT'S SO STRANGE.

AH! MASTER LIU BEI!
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!

CLOP
THEY WERE SO CLOSE TO COMPLETELY OVERWHELMING US...

SO WHY DID THEY RETREAT?
SUCH A STRANGE THING TO DO.


CAO CAO HARBORED THE SAME DOUBTS.

DONG ZHUO...

WHY BACK DOWN? YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE AN EVEN MORE WICKED PLAN UP YOUR SLEEVE!

BAMBOO COMICS

三国志 呂布出現 11

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